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S MAGAZINE
INSIDE

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**ROYALS GATHER
TO CELEBRATE
QUEEN'S 93RD
BIRTHDAY**

SEE PAGE 6



PM's Easter vow to stand up for religious groups

CRACKDOWN ON CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

By **David Maddox** POLITICAL EDITOR

THERESA MAY has vowed to tackle the persecution of Christians around the world in a passionate Easter message as church leaders warn the faith is under unprecedented siege.

The words of the Prime Minister, the daughter of a Church of England vicar, come as millions of Christians are facing persecution abroad.

In Syria and Iraq, parts of the world where the first Christians lived, the rise of Islamic State and other extremist groups has seen Christianity almost wiped out.

The Government also faced huge criticism this year when Mrs May refused an asylum request for Christian woman Asia Bibi who faced death threats after being acquitted of blasphemy in Pakistan.

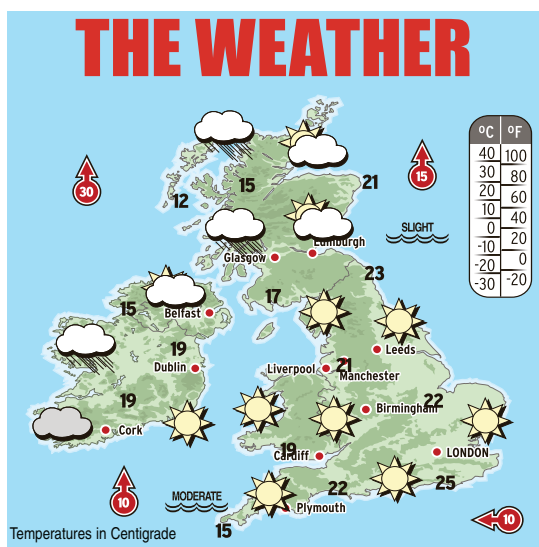
Meanwhile, campaign groups in Britain claim red tape and prejudice against church values is posing an

TURN TO PAGE 5



**Adele splits
with her
husband
'after they
grew apart'**

SEE PAGE 7



TODAY'S SUMMARY

North West: Dry and fine with lengthy spells of sunshine throughout. Gentle south-easterly winds. High 23C (73F).

Northern Ireland: Dry with variable amounts of sunshine throughout the day. Gentle southerly winds. High 19C (66F).

Wales: A largely dry and fine day with lengthy sunny spells expected throughout the day. Warm. High 22C (72F).

Midlands: A dry day with clear skies and plenty of sunshine throughout the day. Light winds. Warm. High 23C (73F).

North East/Yorks: A dry and fine day with plenty of glorious spring sunshine. Gentle northerly winds. Warm. High 24C (75F).

Scotland: A mixture, with cloudy, wet weather in the north west and dry and sunny in the south. High 23C (73F).

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: The band of rain off the northwest of Scotland will move out leaving it largely dry and sunny across much of the UK. It will remain mild.

East Anglia: A dry day with clear skies and bright sunshine. Gentle south-easterly winds. Warm. High 22C (72F).

London/South East: Fine and dry with long periods of spring sunshine. Gentle easterly winds. Warm. High 25C (77F).

South: Dry and fine with lengthy spells of sunshine throughout the day. Light winds. Warm. High 24C (75F).

South West: A dry and fine day with plenty of bright sunshine around. Gentle easterly winds. Warm. High 21C (70F).

Channel Isles: A dry day with blue skies and spring sunshine. Moderate northerly winds. Warm. High 20C (68F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Moderate. Channel: Moderate.

THE WEEK AHEAD

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	min max	min max	min max	min max	min max	min max
London	12 24	12 22	11 17	8 16	8 15	8 14
Belfast	10 19	9 18	8 15	6 14	6 12	6 11
Birmingham	10 22	11 22	9 16	7 14	7 14	6 13
Cardiff	11 22	12 22	10 15	8 14	8 14	8 13
Glasgow	10 20	9 21	8 17	7 13	6 12	7 11
Manchester	11 21	11 22	10 18	8 15	6 14	7 12
Newcastle	6 18	6 15	8 16	6 15	5 14	4 12
Norwich	10 18	10 17	10 18	7 16	7 14	6 14
Plymouth	11 17	10 17	9 13	8 12	8 12	8 12

LIVE WEATHER INFORMATION

0906 156 0206

Call our weather line where you can speak live with our experts for up-to-date forecasts. Calls cost £1.50 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service open 8am - 6pm daily. SP Spoke: 0333 202 3390
SUPPLIED BY METEORGROUP

The National Lottery

JACKPOT £7.5 MILLION

7 8 11 17 34 54 BONUS BALL 4

THUNDERBALL

4 23 26 29 30 THUNDERBALL 12

The Health Lottery

DRAW ON SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2019
28 32 34 37 40 BONUS BALL 11

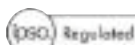
The society benefiting from all draws in the month ending April 30 is Health Lottery Yorkshire & Humber

INSIDE: Comment 14 Nick Ferrari 15

Jennifer Selway 31 Review 33-40 Travel 49-51

Letters 61 Puzzles 62,63 Stuart Winter 64

Plus your 12-page SPORT PULLOUT inside



CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS:

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Easy guesswork for hackers

CYBER experts have cracked the most common password – 123456.

Simple numeric sequences and favourite football teams were also among the most hackable, a National Cyber Security Centre report found.

Analysis of all successful cyber hacks in the past 12 months showed more than 23 million victims globally had used the password "123456" when targeted; 7.7 million were using "123456789", 3.8 million

By **Marco Giannangeli**

had "qwerty" while for 1.1 million it was "111111".

The NCSC list of the top 100,000 hackable passwords revealed gender-neutral names featured heavily in the top five, with "ashley" used by 432,276 victims and "charlie" by 308,939.

In Britain "liverpool" was the most common football team used as a password, Blink 182 the band name most used, and

"superman" was the most popular fictional character.

In a survey of 2,500 UK citizens, businesses and charities just 15 per cent said they knew "a great deal" about protecting themselves from harmful activity online. Under half said they always used a separate password for their main email account, meaning many are using the same password for multiple accounts leaving them vulnerable.

The findings are revealed

before this week's NCSC CyberUK 2019 conference in Glasgow. Delegates from the Five Eyes intelligence club – UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the US – will reveal further research to help shape policy that will help business and the public.

NCSC technical director Dr Ian Levy said: "Password re-use is a major risk that can be avoided – we recommend combining three random but memorable words."

Lyra priest: End the war games

By **Marco Giannangeli**

A PRIEST who read the last rites for tragic Lyra McKee condemned the "little war games" of the terrorists and told them: "Enough is enough."

Two teenagers, 18 and 19, were last night under arrest in connection with the murder of 29-year-old journalist Lyra, who was shot as she attended protests in Londonderry.

It comes as police in Northern Ireland warned of a "new breed of terrorist" lurking in the shadows.

The New IRA's political wing, Saoradh, claimed responsibility for the attack. It blamed the death on an "incursion" by "heavily armed crown forces" in the Creggan estate. "A republican volunteer attempted to

'Our community has had enough'

defend people," it said. "Tragically a young journalist was killed accidentally."

Father Joseph Gormley described the moment he reached Lyra's bedside, as she lay dying in Altnagelvin Area Hospital. "It was heartbreaking to see a young woman, 29 years of age, lying in Altnagelvin. It was so sad," he said.

The Catholic priest said protests on the Creggan estate had been engineered – a tactic often used by republican dissidents and militants. "This rioting was clearly orchestrated. Everybody in our community knows that," he said. "We have a small group of people who want to play political games with our lives and want to use our community as a place where they can play their little war games."

He added: "People in our community have tried to have conversations with these people. They have not listened and now we are saying 'enough



MOVING: Tributes to Lyra McKee, left, in Londonderry

is enough, please get off our backs'."

Father Gormley had called for an illegal republican parade that honours the 1916 Easter Rising – which had been due to take place on the estate where Ms McKee was shot – to be called off. Dissident republicans later said the event would be axed. But the backlash against Saoradh's statement, suggesting the gunmen were only defending themselves against police, continued to mount.

Ms McKee, who was about to reveal a new book about dissident groups, was shot in the head at 10pm on Thursday as she covered the protest.

Earlier she had talked about the "absolute madness" in the area, which saw 50 petrol bombs thrown.

Trouble began as officers carried out

a search operation aimed at disrupting dissident republicans ahead of this weekend's commemoration of the Irish uprising.

CCTV footage released by police show Ms McKee's final moments. She is seen standing next to a police vehicle among a crowd of bystanders with her phone raised, apparently to photograph the violence. Grainy footage shows a masked attacker leaning from behind cover before firing.

Later, another masked man, thought to be an accomplice, is shown seemingly picking up spent cartridge casings before the pair leave.

Det Supt Jason Murphy, of Northern Ireland's police, said the incident pointed to a "new breed of terrorist coming through the ranks and that, for me, is very worrying". But he said there been a sea change in community attitudes, as demonstrated by revulsion at Thursday's killing.

Picture: PAUL FAITH/AFP



HEART WARMING

Boy's vet parents save pet dog of the surgeon who operated on their son

EXCLUSIVE

By Liz Perkins

TWO hearts that beat as one... a four-year-old boy and a bulldog have forged a lifelong friendship after overcoming the same cardiac condition.

As doctors treated Mattia Ferasin in St Thomas' Hospital in London, saving his life with open heart surgery, his parents, who are both vets, became friendly with the medical team.

Cardiac surgeon Dr Caner Salih told them he had a bulldog who was suffering from the same heart defect as Mattia.

After their son was discharged they invited the dog, Budu, to their practice – and successfully treated the pet.

Budu and Mattia have now bonded, and the little boy's family are helping raise money for St Thomas and for the Evelina London Children's Hospital, where Mattia was also treated.

His father Luca, 54, said: "It was very spooky, I couldn't believe it was the same condition."

Mattia, from Four Marks, Hampshire, was born with severe heart problems



SURGERY: Baby Mattia with Heidi

and at just six days old had to undergo a seven-hour operation. His mother Heidi, 38, said she was overwhelmed with gratitude when he survived and wanted to repay the team at Evelina and at St Thomas', where her son was born.

Heidi said: "I burst into tears as he was alive and had made it. Thanks to the surgery and ongoing care of the cardiology team, Mattia is a thriving, healthy and happy little boy who just celebrated his fourth birthday." During their time at the hospital, Mattia's parents Heidi and

Luca got to know Dr Salih, who told them about Budu's heart murmur, which was detected at his first visit to the vet.

After Mattia was discharged from hospital, Luca treated Budu at his practice, Lumbry Park Veterinary, in Alton, Hampshire, and found he had a ventricular septal defect – a hole in the heart – one of the defects corrected during his son's surgery.

Heidi said: "They have survived simultaneously."

The couple, who are supporters of One Health, which investigates similarities between human and veterinary medicine, have fund-raised for both St Thomas' Hospital and Evelina London Children's Hospital. Luca is due to take part in an abseil for St Thomas' on May 10.

Professor David Anderson, the heart surgeon who operated on Mattia, said: "As I look back on my career it brings a warm inward glow to see these children thriving and leading normal lives."

•For details of fundraising, go to virgin-moneygiving.com/Team/PawPals



PALS: Mattia and Budu, are firm friends, top. Above, surgeon Caner holds his pet and vet Luca holds his son outside the pet surgery

AFTERMATH OF PARIS BLAZE

Did dropped cigarette spark Notre-Dame fire?

From **Peter Allen** IN PARIS

THE Notre-Dame Cathedral fire could have started a full day before emergency services knew about it, investigators revealed yesterday.

Experts now believe the inferno was started by a discarded cigarette, that could have begun carbonising tinder-dry wood without anyone noticing.

Forensic experts told a criminal inquiry into Monday's blaze this was a likely scenario.

A source close to the enquiry said: "This is very common in the old buildings around central Paris.

"There would not have been much energy in the fire to begin with, and certainly not enough to trigger alarms. This would have changed as the combustion intensified and sparked a full-blown

'There was not much energy in fire to begin with'

fire on the roof of the building."

Specialist restorers had been working on scaffolding surrounding the wood and lead roof and spire.

But workers from the Bras Brothers, a company based in Jarny, north-east France, said they were not on site when the fire erupted into a full-blown inferno soon after 6pm on Monday.

The source added: "Most of the restorers have been interviewed but deny being in the cathedral when the fire started.

"They say the fire alarms hoses poured down on the conflagration, so too fell the tears of the French.

"The likelihood of a slow burning fire changes everything."

Julien Le Bras, chief executive of the Bras Brothers, has offered "full assistance" to the inquiry

Pictures: CHESNOT/Getty; YVES HERMAN/Reuters



INFERNO: The fire rages at Cathedral on Monday, as, inset, police patrol

are. They have been asked to keep away from Notre-Dame but they're threatening us all with fires on an extremely hot day anyway."

Police confirmed that Yellow Vests caught with fire starting equipment were among 126 people arrested by 1pm, with more than 11,000 stop-and-searches executed.

A police source said: "Most of those arrested were carrying banned items suggesting that they were intent on violence."

He confirmed that the marching demonstrators were banned from the Ile de la Cite – the island upon which Notre-Dame is situated – but said that they were getting "very close indeed".

The Yellow Vests are angry that an appeal aimed at raising money for the renovation of the Notre-Dame Cathedral has passed the one-billion euro mark, while their calls for social justice are apparently ignored.

'Most of the restorers have been interviewed but deny being in Notre-Dame when the fire started. They say alarms did not go off'

mass protests since November. Flames and thick black smoke could be seen rising into the sky, as emergency workers and riot police moved in, using tear gas and baton charges to clear crowds.

There were fears that the fires would spread to nearby cars and buildings, as they have done during previous Yellow Vest protests.

One eyewitness said: "You would think the Yellow Vest would have learnt a lesson about how hugely dangerous these fires

being led by Paris prosecutors. Mr Le Bras has insisted all proper safety procedures were followed.

French president Emmanuel Macron has pledged that the cathedral will reopen "within five years" and that it will be "more beautiful" than before.

Meanwhile, there was anger yesterday as thousands of Yellow Vest protesters took to the Paris streets and set fire to improvised barricades on the banks of the River Seine.

The anti-government demonstrators have been organising

Notre-Dame will rise again from the ashes

IS IT ADIEU to Notre-Dame? Paris's great cathedral took 150 years to build, and just 15 hours on Monday to be devastated by fire. As the water from the firefighters' hoses poured down on the conflagration, so too fell the tears of the French.

The French are perhaps the most history-minded people in Europe. "P" in the French alphabet stands for "patrimoine", meaning heritage. I live in France. A week on, and the burning of Notre-Dame still fills the conversation at the check-out of our local Intermarche.

But I bring good news to my French neighbours, and everyone who has visited, or wished to visit,



COMMENTARY

By **John Lewis-Stempel** (PICTURED)

Notre-Dame, that delirious, vaulting 12th century essay in stone to the glory of God, and testament to the skill of humans.

There is hope in the darkness of the soot settling in the cathedral's ruins. Being devastated is an occupational hazard for Christianity's major churches.

Before the medieval switch to stone, the roofs of Western cathedrals were entirely constructed from wood, an absolute invitation to flames. Thus the entire

east end of Canterbury cathedral flamed in 1174. Twenty years later, Chartres Cathedral, a wonder of the early medieval world, went the same way. On May 16, 1289, so the annals tell us, a plumber at the great priory church at Gisborough left a pan alight on the roof.

These terrible fires were accidents. But the religious and political significance of cathedrals makes them tempting, intentional targets. Notre-Dame itself was stormed during the French Revolution by iconoclastic mobs who smashed up the sculptures and melted down the bronze bells to make cannons.

Most infamously, Hitler's Luftwaffe blitzed Coventry Cathedral in 1940. But it rose from the ashes, as cathedrals do and

must. Restorations are as much a part of church history as ruination. Restorations are, quite literally, a matter of faith, of the necessity of proving the eternity of godliness over ungodliness. And, let us be honest, in the case of Notre-Dame rebuilding is essential to France's national pride, and yes, to tourism.

Devastation is also an opportunity to build better, bigger. Following the Great Fire of London in 1666, the medieval muddle of St Paul's was razed in favour of Sir Christopher Wren's symphonious grand design.

On Easter Sunday it is good to remember Christianity is a resurrectionist religion. If it can bring a dead man back to life, it can certainly make a building rise again.

You don't need talent to get Alesha's vote

By **Ed Gleave**

ALESHA Dixon has confessed she prefers it when Britain's Got Talent acts are rubbish.

The judge, 40, is proud to be on the only TV contest that celebrates contestants who don't have any talent.

She said: "The thing about Britain's Got Talent is that it is good if they are good – and even better if they are bad."

"I am sometimes a little bit worried about the standard of



talent. They do incredibly barny things. But that is the spirit of the show."

Earlier this month show boss Simon Cowell said it is difficult to find acts – and admitted

he is happy to find just two every series.

But Alesha says the standard is as high as ever. She said: "It has been the most incredible year. When we finished the London auditions we all felt as if we had nailed the show."

"When we got to Manchester all the talent there was like the icing on the cake and a bonus because we already had so many good people."

"We said 'Yes' to more people

than ever this year." And last night a teenager from Mumbai became the third act to go straight through to the live shows after earning a golden buzzer from Ant and Dec.

Akshat Singh, 13, impressed the presenters with his energetic dance routine, which saw him do the splits and pull off some breakdance-style moves.

Alesha was thrilled with this year's auditions and insists she's the toughest judge on the panel.

May stands up for Christians

FROM FRONT PAGE

unprecedented threat to the faith domestically.

In her Easter message, Mrs May celebrated the Christian message of hope and pledged to tackle the persecution of Christians abroad – many have been attacked, killed or forced to flee.

She said: "For millions of Christians in this country and around the world, Easter is a particularly special time, when we remember the powerful message at the heart of our Christian faith."

"A message of hope – of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But for many Christians around the world, such simple acts of faith can bring huge danger. Churches have been attacked. Christians murdered. Families forced to flee their homes."

"That is why the Government has launched a global review into the persecution of Christians."

"We must stand up for the right of everyone, no matter what their religion, to practise their faith in peace."

According to human rights groups the most dangerous place to practise the faith is North Korea, which has around 300,000 Christians. There

are also 70,000 imprisoned in labour camps in China. Last year 50,000 Christians fled from northern Nigeria to escape persecution.

There has been a genocide of Christians in the Middle East with 100,000 alone forced out of Ninevah Plains in Iraq. Coptic Christians in Egypt have protested over persecution and mass murders.

Last week, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and head of the Catholic church in England, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, demanded MPs took the issue more seriously.

They said: "We ask Her Majesty's Government to take meaningful action not only in protecting Christians facing persecution but also in promoting freedom of religion and belief more widely."

However, the Evangelical Alliance also raised concerns traditional family values in Britain were being marginalised. This included pro-

moting a secular view of the world in schools. Dr David Landrum, director of advocacy, wrote in a letter to Education Secretary Damian Hinds: "To many orthodox Christians, 'British values' would appear synonymous with secular beliefs that stand at odds with their support of traditional marriage and biblical teaching that underpins the reasons we celebrate Easter."

Liverpool Archbishop Malcolm McMahon warned of a threat against Catholic state schools. The Catholic diocese of Brentwood wants to turn its schools into academies outside council control. He said it was due to "groups who would like to degrade or remove faith schools, such as ours".

It was opposed by Labour MPs in east London and Essex who want councils to maintain control of Catholic schools. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn used his Easter message to urge support for refugees.



MESSAGE:
Theresa May
talks of faith

OPINION & COMMENT:
PAGE 14

'More abuse' for players

BOYCOTT:
Chris
Smalling
backed
campaign



FOOTBALLERS who took part in a 24-hour social media boycott to protest against online racism have received further insults, it was claimed last night.

The Professional Footballers' Association said more abuse was directed at some of those involved in supporting the Enough campaign, which demands social media chiefs do more to combat racism targeting players.

The PFA has now pledged to crack down on the trolls and is calling for meetings with social media bosses, the Government and the FA. The players' union said in a Twitter post: "Some members received racist abuse on their Enough posts."

"When these incidents were reported, the response from social networks was again unacceptable."

"We will be inviting players to report any racist abuse they have received to us."

Manchester United defender Chris Smalling was one of the star players to give his backing to the campaign.



TOUGH:
Alesha
Dixon
insists she
is the
hardest
judge to
please

ROYAL CELEBRATIONS

Birth to 'break the internet'

By News Reporter

PRINCE Harry and his wife Meghan are aiming to "break the internet" when they announce the birth of their baby.

The Queen's closest aides fear the pair will snub Buckingham Palace and become the first royal couple to announce the arrival of their child on social media.

Earlier this month, the Duke and Duchess launched the Sussex Royal Instagram account which attracted more than one million followers in a day.

Now Palace courtiers believe the couple will only tell them their baby has been born after posting the news online themselves.

One explained: "There's a worry we'll only know about it when we read it on Instagram. It might not be pleasant for Her Majesty, who favours more traditional methods."

Harry and Meghan have said they will be "celebrating privately" after the birth of their baby. They have



DUE SOON: Duchess of Sussex

also refused to pose for a media photocall, saying they will release their own pictures of baby Sussex – who will be seventh in line to the throne – when they are ready.

The Queen's aides will only be told that Meghan's labour has begun and, eventually, that the baby has been born.

The Sussexes will end a long-established royal tradition where couriers hand-deliver a note from doctors to Buckingham Palace, informing the Queen of the new arrival.

A footman then fixes the announcement to the railings of Palace, or frames it on an easel inside the grounds.

A senior aide said: "Supporters gather outside the gates to see the notice for themselves.

"It brings a great deal of happiness and is one of those bonds that tie the monarchy and the public together – but if they've already seen it on Instagram, what's the point?"

Branding the move "another nail in the coffin" for the royals, the aide added: "For the Sussexes, it all seems to be about who has control. They're obsessed with being in charge but they're part of a team and have to accept that the monarchy isn't all about them."

Family gather for Her Majesty's 93rd

THE Queen has been joined by her family at Windsor Castle to celebrate her 93rd birthday today.

Britain's longest-reigning monarch will spend her special day surrounded by her nearest and dearest, with a key part of the day being an Easter service at St George's Chapel.

Yesterday, the Earl and Countess of Wessex, Prince Edward and Sophie, were seen enjoying the castle grounds on horseback with their children,

BIRTHDAY: The Queen is 93



By Tony Whitfield

Lady Louise Windsor and James, Viscount Severn. But despite the glorious sunshine, the Queen – who is known for her love of horses – was not seen out riding.

While June 6 is officially celebrated as the monarch's date of birth, the Queen – who has been on the throne for 67 years – was actually born on April 21.

The day will also be marked by a 41-gun salute in Hyde Park, a 21-gun salute in Windsor Great Park and a 62-gun salute at the Tower of London.



RIDING HIGH: Countess of Wessex, out in a carriage, while Prince Edward and Lady Louise rode, above

'Meghan was driven and talented'



PUPILS: Meghan and Katharine were in shows at school

MEGHAN Markle has always been "very driven and very professional", an actress who once shared a stage with her at school has revealed.

Singer and songwriter Katharine McPhee, 35, who is taking the West End by storm with her lead role in the musical *Waitress*, said the former *Suits* actress was "adorable" and "really talented" when they met as teenagers.

The former *American Idol* 2006 runner-up said the pair met at the Immaculate Heart High School and Middle School in Los Angeles where her older sister Adriana was in the same class as Meghan. McPhee said in a magazine

By Tony Whitfield

interview yesterday: "She was adorable. I was 13 when I met her. She was great.

"I always found her to be so beautiful. She's still beautiful to this day. I just remember her being very driven and very professional even just in the little high school musical we were in, and really talented."

She met the duchess again last month at an event to promote children's rights. She said: "She remembered me but remembered my sister more, and her name, which I thought was cute."

● *Waitress*, the musical, is on at the Adelphi Theatre until June 15.

Pictures: KELVIN BRUCE

Machete-wielding teenager in vicious daylight duel



A YOB is filmed hacking at another teenager with a machete after his opponent hit him with a wooden pole.

The footage was captured by a passenger on a bus, in Leeds on Friday.

Passengers are heard to gasp: "Madness" as the pair fight a running battle along a footpath near shops, watched by other teens. The outcome is unknown.

Det Supt Chris Gibson, West Yorkshire Police knife crime expert, said: "Carrying a knife is never the answer."



By **James Desborough**

ADELE and her husband Simon Konecki decided to end their marriage after life "took them in different directions and to different continents", sources have revealed.

The Oscar-winning singer loved life in sunny Los Angeles, surrounded by her celebrity friends, while Simon preferred England, insiders say.

The couple have a six-year-old son, Angelo.

In a statement released on Friday, the Hello singer's team said: "Adele and her partner have separated."

"They are committed to raising their son together lovingly. As always, they ask for privacy. There will be no further comment."

Business associates of Adele, 30, said she and philanthropist Simon, 45, simply "grew apart".

An aide told how the split was a "very organic thing" and said Adele and Simon were "making sure Angelo shares time with them both". "There

Adele splits from her husband

ALL OVER: Adele has split from husband Simon Konecki, inset with Keith Urban at the 2013 Grammys

'Unconventional relationship'

is obviously sadness that things have not worked out but at the same time a mutual love and respect to make their lives work as parents to Angelo."

A business associate, based in LA, said the couple's lives "took them in different directions".

They added: "In the last 15 months, Adele came to the States all the time. Simon was nowhere to be seen."

"He was mentioned in passing, but there was never a feeling that they were super close."

"Angelo seemed to be Adele's priority," the associate added. "She doted on him. That naturally has an impact on a marriage."

"Not only that, Adele had found an exciting new social circle in LA and New York of strong Hollywood women who loved her for her humour and down-to-earth ways."

"It was not that Simon was staying away, but his charity business was booming and it meant he was travelling across the globe."

"He would be away in Africa and on the Indian sub-continent for weeks on end. His passion for his cause just took him away from his wife." The business



associate said Adele's inner circle had not been surprised to hear about the split, as Simon and the singer had an "unconventional relationship".

He added: "Some of us thought she liked it that way but in the end, they were barely together so called it quits. What was a surprise was the announcement, given how she is so private. She just got fed up of all the speculation and the pressure from the media."

Yesterday, several media outlets reported that the couple had been "living separate lives for years".

In March, Adele and Jennifer Lawrence were filmed partying at a gay bar in New York. A month earlier the singer also attended Jay-Z and

Beyonce's Oscars after-party alone.

Adele and Simon started dating in 2011 and their son Angelo was born in October 2012.

Adele, who is famously private, confirmed she had married Simon when she won Album of the Year at the 2017 Grammys.

The family had split their time between Adele's native London and Beverly Hills.

Simon is co-founder of Life Water – an eco-friendly brand of bottled water. The company helps fund Simon's charity, Drop4Drop, which provides clean water to countries in need.

Adele is worth an estimated £140million. The pair will now have to negotiate dividing their wealth.



Picture: NIKLAS HALLEN/AFP

MESSAGE: A campaigner holds a sign at Oxford Circus



POLICE ARE FROM THE

THE CLIMATE change protesters bringing London to a standstill are "too nice" for hardened Met officers to deal with, a Police Federation boss has admitted.

Their non-violent "love bombing" tactic is a "very clever strategy", according to Ken Marsh, chairman of the Met Police Federation.

He said the fact protesters are "happily" being arrested means police are "damned if we do and damned if we don't".

By yesterday evening, more than 750 people had been arrested and 28 had been charged since the protests began on Monday.

Campaigners – who have only been given permission to demonstrate at Marble Arch – have continually broken the law since then, occupying Oxford Circus, Waterloo Bridge and Parliament Square.

A pink boat in the centre of Oxford Circus – which actress Dame Emma Thompson used as a stage to address the crowds – was removed on Friday night, but protesters soon reoccupied the street.

The group behind the protest – Extinction Rebellion – called for more people to join them today and tomorrow to mark a week of action.

ACTION: Yoga fan joins protest



By **Jon Austin** and **David Williamson**

Organisers invited Londoners to "share a feast" at Marble Arch today and join "The Last Picnic" on Easter Monday, where they intend to block the busy A40 Westway – a key route into central London from the west.

Yesterday, around 1,750 officers were called to deal with the demo after the Met Police drafted in colleagues from other forces.

Mr Marsh said: "Most people were law-abiding and don't want to break any laws – they just want to demonstrate and prove their point."

"But that was difficult for us to deal with as we are not used to a scenario of hundreds of people who are happy to be arrested. It is so draining. As soon as we cleared 100, another 200 would appear and we don't do kettling any more."

"They want as many people as possible to go through the judicial system so they can have their day in court and it won't go away."

"Whoever thought up this strategy is very clever and knows what they are doing. They made it very difficult for us."

Mr Marsh said that officers knew they had struck the right balance in policing the demo, because of what the protesters are telling them. Police reported

Genteel town

A PICTURESQUE Cotswold town was last night identified as ground zero for the climate change protests.

Stroud, in Gloucestershire, is renowned as one of the UK's "greenest" areas but it now appears the town is home to the demonstrations' ringleaders.

It has been reported that a large number of those arrested in London over the past few days hail from the idyllic country town.

Two of the first activists to be arrested for damaging the Shell building, Jane Augsburg and Katerina Hasa popoulos, were said to live in Stroud.

Also from the town were the four-strong team who chained themselves to Jeremy Corbyn's garden fence.

One was Skeena Rathor, a Labour member of Stroud District Council.

It has also emerged that the co-founders of Extinction Rebellion, the

From **Tracey Kandhola** IN STROUD

activist group behind many of the protests in central London, are also based in Stroud.

Gail Bradbrook, 47, and her partner Simon Bramwell have both an office and home in the town, it was reported.

Stroud, home to the only vegan team in the Football League in Forest Green Rovers, was last night hailed as a hotbed of eco-activism.

Local barmaid Lhasa Collins, 20, said: "It seems everyone taking part is from Stroud. They feel very empowered and satisfied, in fact very smug, because Stroud is making a difference."

A cafe worker in the town said: "I would often see Gail in here and many others. They are all very nice and there is a big movement in the town over the awareness of climate change and what is happening to our

FOR A SIXTH DAY

OUTFOXED BY LOVE-BOMB CLIMATE CHANGE PROTEST

Picture: SAM PEARCE

being hugged by campaigners as they marched on Waterloo Bridge, who told them: "We love you. We are doing this for your children, too."

"There were people asking officers to be gentle as they put the handcuffs on," Mr Marsh said.

"It was bizarre, but we are trained to deal with passive people and have to use a modicum of common sense.

"If we had gone in in a line with batons out, I don't think it would have gone down too well."

Mr Marsh said he was confident the protests would be over by tomorrow, claiming that the police "are on top of it" and had enough officers to deal with the situation.

But the perceived level of police inaction has led to calls for Home Secretary Sajid Javid to get tough.

Shipley's Tory MP Philip Davies said water cannons should be used to get campaigners off the streets, while Romford's MP, Conservative Andrew Rosindell, accused the police of "surrendering" to protesters.

"If most people started blocking roads, they'd be arrested," he said. "It seems

like one law for most of us and one for them. It's wrong."

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick said the situation facing officers was "unprecedented".

"I've been a police officer for 36 years and I have never known a single operation in which over 700 people have been arrested," she said.

Ms Dick told how the protesters were "utterly determined to obstruct what we are trying to achieve" and said that after the demo had ended, the Force would "have a good think" about "what we've learned from this and how we adapt our tactics".

The Met Police also dismissed protesters' claims that 50,000 more people had joined the cause and custody suites across London were full, with detainees now being taken as far as Brighton and Southampton.

A Force spokesman said: "Arrested people are being taken to custody suites across London.

"No cells from other forces are being used for this operation at this time."



NICK FERRARI:
PAGE 15

What do you think - SHOULD THE POLICE HAVE BEEN TOUGHER?

YES - 0901 133 4421 • text SXYES to 84988

NO - 0901 133 4422 • text SXNO to 84988

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CRACKDOWN:
Police try and haul a male protester to his feet at Oxford Circus

that is fermenting the rebellion

Earth." Book shop boss Carmel Evison said: "They've got a voice and it's loud and proud.

"We're all supporting them wholeheartedly.

"They are our future and we think they can make a difference. They've

given us a bit of home pride." Fellow Stroud resident Dr John Milson said: "They are very environmentally conscious and I am absolutely delighted to see young people fired up and doing something about it.

"They are very dedicated to their cause. Stroud has dynamism."

Retired researcher Susan McQuail said: "A lot of people moved here from London, as I did, for a better quality of life and a greener environment. It's middle class and it's quite right on, and it's the kind of place which is serious about trying to make the world a better place."

Bookseller Marianne Dworski added: "I'm very impressed with the way young people are taking this on. It's easy to criticise them but they are waking up and thinking, 'What is going to be left of this planet?'"

"They're uniting to do something about it."



RURAL: Stroud is idyllic location



BEAUTY SPOT: The Cotswold Canal running through leafy Stroud, in Gloucestershire

Vote me! Farage call to Labour Brexiteers



Picture: AARON CHOWN/PA

DOUBLE ACT: Nigel Farage and new recruit Annunziata Rees-Mogg on stage in Nottingham yesterday at rally attended by 700 supporters

By **David Maddox** POLITICAL EDITOR

NIGEL Farage directly appealed to Leaver Labour voters yesterday to back his new Brexit Party instead.

"Our two-party system simply doesn't work any more," he said at a rally in Nottingham, which voted to quit the EU.

He predicted the party he now leads could provoke a peaceful political revolution and overthrow the Westminster establishment.

Mr Farage reminded his audience that 83 per cent of Labour MPs are Remainers despite vast swathes of Labour-held areas and five million of the party's supporters voting Leave, urging Brexit supporters among them to switch to him.

The former Ukip leader believes the European Parliament elections in May will be between the Brexit Party and a "Remainer" Labour Party, sources said.

In a barnstorming speech, Mr Farage attacked arch-Remainer Lord Adonis, a candidate for Labour in the European Parliament elections, for saying Brexiteers "should not vote for Labour".

Mr Farage said "too little attention has been paid to splits in Labour" over leaving the EU.

"Labour MPs are saying to Labour voters 'you are too thick, too stupid, you don't know what you did'," he said.

He also turned his fire on Remain Tories, hailing Derbyshire Conservative councillors who have

Calls for shake-up of electoral system

LEADING figures on both sides of the Brexit divide are demanding changes to the electoral system so new parties stand a chance of breaking into Westminster.

Angela Smith MP, who quit the Labour party to join the new Change UK party, will call in Parliament this week for the "first past the post" system to end and be replaced by proportional representation.

The Brexit Party's Nigel Farage said: "Our electoral system is not fit for purpose. The whole system needs a radical transformation."

The challenges facing a smaller party was shown in the 2015 general election. Ukip was backed by nearly

3.9 million people, winning 12.6 per cent of the vote, but it ended up with just one MP.

Ukip would have won 80 seats if the PR system was used, the Electoral Reform Society (ERS) said.

Ms Smith, who represents Penistone and Stocksbridge, said: "It is vital political parties recognise the scale of the change needed. If we don't there could be long-term damage to our democracy."

Darren Hughes, of the ERS, said: "Now is the time to move to a truly representative, participatory politics, where every vote counts and people know their voice will be heard."

"gone on strike" and will not campaign for the party next month because Brexit has not been delivered. Mr Farage drew approving boos from the audience when he attacked Nottinghamshire MPs Ken Clarke and Anna Soubry.

He said former cabinet minister Mr Clarke had "at least been consistent" as a Remainer, but criticised Ms Soubry for reneging on her promise

to "respect the referendum result". He said she was representative of the "disrespectful, undemocratic, completely unacceptable" betrayal of Brexit by MPs.

Mr Farage added: "We have not formed this party just to protest, just to stick two fingers up to the establishment on May 23, just to get our own back and tell them what we think of them. No, our ambitions are

much, much higher than that. I think it's obvious that our two-party system simply doesn't work any more.

"I think it's obvious that our two big parties serve nothing but their own interests."

Annunziata Rees-Mogg, sister of Tory Eurosceptic Jacob Rees-Mogg, appeared at the rally, attended by around 700 activists, alongside Mr Farage.

She confirmed she will stand for the Brexit Party next month.

Speaking before the event, Ms Rees-Mogg, from Lincolnshire, said: "I will be standing in the East Midlands, where I live with my family, and fighting to represent the people of the East Midlands in order to ensure the Brexit they voted for is actually delivered."

Anti-EU Irish are prepared for Irexit

BRITAIN'S struggle to leave the European Union has not put off activists in the Republic of Ireland who also want to cut the cord with Brussels, writes David Williamson.

Members of a new political party that hopes to win their first MEPs in the European elections want Brexit to pave the way for "Irexit".

The Irish Freedom Party has the goal of "re-establishing the national independence and sovereignty of Ireland and restoring its national democracy by leaving the European Union".

Ray Bassett, a senior fellow on EU affairs at the Policy Exchange think tank, expects the push for Irexit to grow in popularity.

He said: "I think in the longer run they are probably going to do quite well. Circumstances for Ireland in the European Union are changing and for the worst."

"The Irish government is now paying a lot more into the European Union than it is getting out."

Mr Bassett argues the popularity of the EU will fade if moves are made to have a European army and common taxes.

Boost for seafood industry

BRITAIN will be one of only two countries exporting live langoustines to China.

The UK will join France to sell the shellfish in a deal that will rake in up to £26.5million over five years, said the Department for International Trade.

The Scottish and Northern Ireland fishing sectors, a key issue in Brexit, could receive an annual £5.3million boost from the deal.

What do you think – SHOULD WE HAVE A NO-DEAL BREXIT NOW?

YES – 0901 133 4431 ● text SXVYES to 84988

NO – 0901 133 4432 ● text SXVNO to 84988

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Pictures: ANDREW MATTHEWS & DANNY LAWSON/PA

HAPPY EASTER SUNDAY



SOAKING UP THE SUN: Huge crowds headed to Bournemouth beach, above, and Scarborough, inset

THOUSANDS of sunseekers flocked to beaches and parks yesterday to make the most of the warmest Easter weekend for 70 years.

Temperatures hit 26C (78F) in Gosport, Hampshire, yesterday, making it Britain's hottest day of the year so far – and warmer than parts of France, Italy and Spain.

By **Jon Coates**

Around 50,000 visitors are expected to head to Bournemouth over the Bank Holiday weekend, while beaches in Scarborough, Brighton and the West Country also are attracting huge crowds.

The barbecue weather is set to continue today and tomorrow for

much of the country, before Tuesday and Wednesday see cooler, cloudy weather moving in.

A Met Office forecaster said: "Temperatures are expected to reach into the high 20s every day of the four-day break. It is likely to be the warmest Easter Sunday in Britain since 2011 and the warmest Easter since 1949."



RULING PASSIONS: Dame Helen Mirren stars as Catherine the Great



Mirren to star in TV's 'raunchiest' show yet

DAME Helen Mirren's portrayal of Catherine the Great will be TV's raunchiest historical drama ever.

The series about the promiscuous Russian Queen, who ruled in the 18th century, will be a no-holds-barred account, say insiders.

A source said: "Catherine behaved like a man, with lots of lovers. There is so much sex in the story, the scenes are rich, racy and very graphic."

"If people found the BBC's Versailles raunchy, this story is a notch up. It is a passion project of Helen Mirren's and it looks like it will be the raunchiest historical drama we have seen on UK televi-

By **Julia Kuttner**

sion." But Dame Helen has reassured viewers of the HBO/Sky Atlantic four-parter, which airs in autumn, that there will not be any controversial scenes with a horse.

Catherine was said to have been crushed to death, aged 67, by a horse while attempting to have sex with it. Historians now dismiss the lurid tale as a myth put out by her enemies.

Dame Helen, 73, said: "That was a complete calumny thrown at her by history, because history really doesn't like very successful, very powerful women. They have to drag them down." Speaking at the BFI

and Radio Times TV festival, she added: "I hope we are going to reinstate Catherine's reputation as the incredible leader she was. She made mistakes and had faults, and finished up quite tyrannical. But she was originally a reformer and a westerniser of that vast country."

Unlike Britain's more reserved Royal Family, Catherine – who died following a stroke – was no different to other Russian empresses, said Dame Helen, an executive producer on the project. "They all had a series of lovers. The whole attitude to sex was so different. They had lovers and it was an accepted part of their culture. That's so not British."



**WORKING
HARD: The
natural
dam
builders**

Beavers to help prevent flooding

BEAVERS are being drafted in to help engineer the end of the flooding crisis in the north of England.

Forestry England is hoping a pair of the natural dam builders – drafted in from Scotland – will help to protect Pickering in North Yorkshire from flooding.

Alan Eves, of Forestry England, said: "This sees the introduction of a

By **Liz Perkins**

cornerstone species that has been absent from our landscape for over 300 years.

"We are looking forward to seeing the beavers settle into their new home and are very interested to watch how they impact on the water flow and surrounding ecology."

Abbott 'sorry' for train drink

By **David Williamson**

SHADOW home secretary Diane Abbott has apologised "sincerely" after breaking an alcohol ban by drinking from a can of M&S mojito on public transport.

Ms Abbott, one of Jeremy Corbyn's key allies, was seen drinking the rum cocktail while looking at her phone.

Susan Hall, of the London Assembly's Police and Crime Committee, said: "As someone who aspires to be home secretary, Diane Abbott should know better. How can she have any credibility if she's willing to break the law?" Transport for London banned drinking alcohol on public transport in 2008.

Ms Abbott, 65, said on Twitter: "A photo of me drinking from a can of M&S mojito on the Overground has been circulated. I'm sincerely sorry for drinking on TFL."

One Twitter user said: "If her party get into government she will be in charge of our police force so it's kind of important she's seen upholding the law rather than flouting it."

However, she was backed by Labour MP David Lammy, who responded to her apology saying, "Sorry for what? Why wasn't the rum Jamaican?" And ex-Corbyn aide Matt Zarb-Cousin said he would be "toasting Diane Abbott".



BAN: Diane Abbott drinks on a train

Boy of six shot inside his home

TWO MEN have been arrested after a six-year-old boy was shot inside a home.

The 17-year-old and 24-year-old were arrested on suspicion of wounding after shots were fired at a property in Wolverhampton on Friday afternoon.

The boy sustained injuries to his back and hand, but they are not believed to be life-threatening.

Detective Inspector Rod Rose, of West Midlands Police, said: "The motive of this attack remains unclear."

Elderly couple in 'murder-suicide'

A COUPLE in their 80s have been found dead in their Devon seaside home in a suspected murder-suicide.

They were discovered yesterday at an address in Chelston, Torquay, by police who were called over concerns for their well-being. No one else is being sought.

A spokesman said: "Police were called to an address over concerns for the welfare of a couple in their 80s. A male and female were found deceased within the premises."

REBUILDING

SPECIAL REPORT

By **Marco Giannangeli**
DEFENCE EDITOR

THEY came from all corners of the British Empire; tens of thousands of men and boys from as far afield as Salford, Sydney and Soweto.

All met bloody deaths in Iraq while fighting for Britain in both world wars.

Today Iraq remains a major site for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, but years of conflict, from Sadaam Hussein to Islamic State, mean many are near ruin.

Now, after years of planning, efforts to restore them to their former glory are underway. A shipment of new headstones has arrived in Basra, and the first refurbishments are set to begin.

Other than the UK, Iraq is surpassed only by France, Belgium and India in the number of Commonwealth graves.

Most of the 54,000 who perished there will be remembered only by their names, ranks and service number

'Renovating a cemetery is not a simple job, it requires surveys and expertise'

carved on headstones or memorial plaques. But some are more famous.

They include Capt George Stuart Henderson, commander of 2nd Battalion Manchester Regiment, whose company was attacked in July 1920 near the town of Hillah by forces supporting the Iraq uprising against British rule.

Despite an ambush by overwhelming forces, he led several bayonet charges before he died of his wounds. His final words were: "I'm done now, don't let them beat you."

Henderson, who received a Military Cross on the battlefields in Ypres, in Belgium, and two Distinguished Service Orders, was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

More than 130 Manchesters died the same day and they are also remembered on the Basra memorial.

For almost three decades, however, the valiant effort by



RENOVATION: Staff begin restoration at Habbaniya, above, remains of a war grave in Mosul smashed by IS jihadis (right) and Captain Henderson, inset

the CWGC to ensure such sacrifices were never forgotten has been hampered by conflict. From disruptions of the first Gulf War, to the sectarian fighting after the fall of dictator Saddam Hussein, and then the emergence of the caliphate established by Islamic State, each decade has presented an increasingly dangerous environment.

Many cemeteries, such as the one in Mosul, lay completely destroyed. Its headstones were demolished deliberately by Islamic fundamentalists and by shelling in the fight to retake the former IS stronghold.

But now, with the caliphate vanquished, the green shoots of revival are beginning to emerge. Fresh white headstones aboard a cargo vessel at the Port of Basra were last night awaiting clearances to

be taken to their new home. The Habbaniya cemetery, 40 miles west of Baghdad, once housed a peace-time Royal Air Force station.

It now contains the remains of 162 Commonwealth soldiers killed by Iraq troops in 1941, as well 10 Poles and one Norwegian, and a further 117 service personnel who died after the war ended.

The crucial challenge, security, is not a factor here since the cemetery is now contained in an Iraq military base. But it is the issue of trusted labour that has only recently been resolved.

"We used to employ dedicated staff in Iraq. As things unravelled we turned to contractors but it got to a point where we just weren't able to operate there at all," said Richard Hill, Asia, Africa and Pacific director at the CWGC.

"Things improved briefly in 2006 and 2012, but then things fell apart again.

"Renovating a cemetery isn't a simple job; it requires surveys, technical expertise, stone masonry skills and a



HONOURING BRAVE TROOPS

MEMORIALS TO HEROES

Picture: AHMAD AL-RUBAYE/Getty



conservation statement. It's about finding people you can trust, and Iraq hasn't been stable enough."

The CWGC, which looks after 23,000 cemeteries and memorials in 150 countries, has an annual budget of £70million paid for by six Commonwealth nations: Australia, Britain, Canada, India and New Zealand. British taxpayers pay £50million. The number of British graves in Iraq, 17,632, is overshadowed by India's 36,202. For the 58 countries that make up the CWGC's Asia, Africa and the Pacific region – which includes Iraq – the annual figure is £6million.

Mr Hill said: "We looked across the Iraq estate and decided we could renovate Habbaniya. Within a couple of months we should be laying the new headstones."

"At the end of the day the bodies are there and we know where they are."

"We owe that debt to those casualties buried there."

OPINION: PAGE 14



SURVEY: Richard Hill, right, with workers at a CWGC site in Basra

'Sacrifice of the 54,000 must be remembered'

THE Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for some 2,500 cemeteries worldwide, the legacy of two world wars and many lesser conflicts.

These places of burial are rightly much admired for their tranquillity, dignity and beauty.

They bring comfort to bereaved families who much appreciate the care and compassion with which the Commission maintains the sites.

Sadly, the Commission has to deal with vandalism, often the result of a contentious political situation.

This is dramatically the case in Iraq, where the 19 cemeteries maintained by the Commission have been terribly damaged.

Fifty-four thousand soldiers from Britain and the then Empire who fell in the various campaigns between 1914 and 1945 are buried in these cemeteries. Their

COMMENT



By Gen Sir Mike Jackson

CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF 2003-2006

sacrifice deserves to be remembered in the same dignified manner as their brothers-in-arms who are buried elsewhere.

As Iraq becomes more stable, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is starting to restore these cemeteries.

We owe them our wholehearted support in this noble endeavour, as we do to the memory of those whose final resting place it is.



SUNDAY EXPRESS OPINION

Evil must not triumph over our core values

WE WOULD like to wish all our readers a very happy Easter and enjoyable bank holiday.

But it is worth sparing a thought for the millions of people around the world who today are being persecuted because of their faith.

This newspaper welcomes the Prime Minister's commitment to take on the persecution of Christians abroad.

It is not before time.

It is truly awful that in Syria and Iraq, places where the faith first took root, Christians are now close to being wiped out – either through mass killings or forced exile – simply because of their beliefs.

The Government must also remember people such as Asia Bibi, who faced the death sentence in Pakistan for her Christian faith but was not granted asylum. We seem to give protection to all sorts of people with questionable views, including Islamic hate preachers, but cannot help Christians.

Ministers should also consider how Christians are being treated on these shores. We need to take seriously the concerns of those who believe there is a damaging mixture of government regulation, secularism and prejudice against traditional Christian family values.

In the end, though, we perhaps should remember that Easter Day is about the resurrection of Christ and represents the victory of good over evil.

That is the central value that has underpinned Western ideals for centuries, giving us democracy, the rule of law and leading to the protection of the weak against the strong.

So even though most people will not be in church today we should not shy away from the fact that we are still proud of these collective values.

Restoring heroic pride

NOTHING tells the story of British values better than the war graves of the men who died fighting for this country around the world.

The desecration of the war graves in places such as Mosul in Iraq by ISIS and other extremists is something which should hurt us all.

The terrorists attacked those graves because they are memorials to men who died battling for freedom, democracy and humanity against tyranny.

Those young men who never returned home represent the best of what it was – and is – to be British.

So the story in today's paper that the cemeteries are to be restored is very good news and an important sign that we will stand by the beliefs that have helped us shape the world into a better place.

Time to rise and surf

MANY people have an unhappy relationship with their alarm clocks, so the revelation that it is better to wake up to Beach Boys songs is very welcome.

As they might have sung, Wouldn't It Be Nice for us all to have some Good Vibrations?

This Easter, think how we can all help the children



**By the Rt
Rev Rob
Wickham**

BISHOP OF
EDMONTON

THE SUN is just rising, and you are sitting in the park with a few friends. You are all tired, but then you notice an angry group of young men coming towards you with knives and clubs.

They are up for a fight. Their target is your best friend. You have been friends for years, and you want to protect him. The altercation begins. There is shouting, jaunting, jibing, and they begin to aggressively and angrily grab your friend.

Anger boils up inside you. You must save him. You must act now. You draw your knife and you thrash out in anger. You then see someone's ear, now cut off, fly through the air, with a young man screaming in pain, hands clasped over the side of his face, doubling over on his knees. You have inflicted this pain.

You might think that this is a recent story from the streets of London, but this is a story from the Bible. This is St Peter, who in anger lashes out and commits a knife crime, as Jesus is arrested on Good Friday.

St Peter, who had stayed with Jesus for three years, who will deny him on Good Friday, commits a stabbing. But amazingly, he will then be given the keys of the Kingdom of God in forgiveness and love in only a few days' time.

St Peter became angry very suddenly. Has this ever happened to you? St Peter lashed out, as you will sometimes lash out. He drew his knife and stabbed, his anger being so acute that he wanted to physically inflict pain, perhaps even death, upon his enemy.

You have also responded in anger – sometimes physically, sometimes verbally, sometimes inwardly and silently, sometimes on social media. You lash out when you feel threatened, or your loved ones are threatened. Perhaps you are no different from St Peter?

The rising levels of violence that we are witnessing are deeply alarming. With so many young people carrying and



REACH OUT: It's up to us to stem the violence with healing, forgiveness and love

using knives, we find ourselves in the midst of a crisis. Many are fearful. But who should respond? Is this an issue for the police, the local authorities, the Government? In whom do we put our trust?

William Cavanaugh, the theologian, reminds us that there are pitfalls in viewing the State as a saviour. The State is flawed and will never fulfil all our hopes, and if it had all the answers, surely the issue of violence would have been sorted by now? Yes, funding is important, and, yes, the statutory services are an essential part of the response. But there has to be more.

Many youth workers whom I have listened to say that some young people are being groomed after school, while parents and carers are at work. They find themselves in abusive relationships, relationships that pretend to be familial, loving, protective and trustworthy, but that in reality help facilitate the recreational drug habits of thousands of people.

This is big business, and this illegal market is a cut-throat environment which often exploits children. Many will be unwittingly endangering the

lives of young people as they relax with friends on a Friday night.

So, what can we do? Surely this is someone else's problem? Well, the answers lie, of course, much closer to home. It is not so much that someone else needs to do something about it; you need to do something about it.

It is your responsibility, alongside others, to love your neighbour, to build up community and not, in anger and frustration, to break the community down. It is your responsibility to listen to the concerns and cries of young people, who are longing for someone to listen and to love.

It is your responsibility to welcome the stranger, your responsibility to build hope where hopelessness reigns.

The African proverb that it takes a village to raise a child is a helpful way of thinking about this. But what if the village shuns the child, or is so busy that it does not notice the child? The child will get angry and demand attention or look elsewhere.

So how might you help that child? Youth clubs are certainly needed, as is support of the

police and uniformed organisations, volunteering, speaking out, mentoring, noticing, listening and cutting back on recreational drug use.

This issue will not simply go away, especially if we all think that it is nothing to do with us. The Bible story of St Peter, and the many Old Testament stories of familial anger, jealousy and pride – alongside the experiences of our current youth workers, teachers and social workers – remind us that we can all become violent when we feel threatened and angry. This is human nature.

JESUS forgave Peter and healed the stabbed victim. Jesus also encourages us to heal, forgive and love, as he himself has given these gifts in the Resurrection. It is no surprise that his first words after his Resurrection were "Peace be with you".

Ask yourself how you will respond. What kind of role model are you? How will you be part of the healing, forgiveness and love? As William Cavanaugh says, the State is not the saviour, but Jesus is, and he reveals what human flourishing really means.

Most of us, myself included, are in fact part of the problem. If this is so, and if we can change, then perhaps we can also be part of the solution.

'The State is not the saviour. It's flawed and can't fulfil our hopes'

NICK FERRARI



LEGAL aid cannot be given to families of Hillsborough victims but perhaps can to a runaway Jihadi bride. Discuss...

Protests that show we've lost the plot

Picture: GETTY

SOMETIMES you just don't seem to be able to do right for doing wrong. Generous French billionaires have faced a backlash over the hundreds of millions of euros they have donated towards the rebuilding of Notre-Dame.

Representatives of the "yellow vest" protesters said the cash should be spent instead on tackling the nation's social problems.

Seeing as, gathered together, these eternal moaners are probably worth about 27 euros, two baguettes and a bottle of Stella, could they kindly "fermez" their mouths about where these folk decide to direct their cash.

DISGRACED Labour MP Richard Burgoon told a judge under oath he had never said Zionism was the "enemy of peace" – just three months before a video emerged proving he did just that.

And under a Labour government, this man would be JUSTICE Secretary.

Just to repeat: you have been warned.

FOR some unknown reason, there are people who have taken against Prince Harry and Meghan after they let it be known they are not going to do the first photocall for their new-born baby on the steps of a hospital.

Instead, as it is reported the child is to be born at home, they will manage the entire process.

Commentators splutter that this is unjust and a break with tradition.

Utter hogwash. No one can – nor should – tell any parents how to behave at such an intimate moment. Just leave them alone.

ONE OF the most severe charges laid against those who exercised their democratic right and voted to take this country out of the European Union is that Brexit – and I promise I'll only say the word once this Easter Sunday! – has turned Britain into a global joke. While not subscribing to that view for a moment, if that is held to have turned us into a laughing stock, the way the authorities have handled the climate change demonstration must be enough for a sitcom.

From the moment the eco-activist, middle class temper tantrum that is Extinction Rebellion began, the authorities have mis-spoken, mis-stepped and messed up at every trick of the puerile, rebellious track.

The fact that police allowed the protesters to take over three major junctions and a bridge in London and spent 24 hours as spectators was as gross a dereliction of duty as is imaginable. Once they actually woke up to the fact that they are the police we pay to stop acts of lunacy such as these, it was way too late. Hundreds had gathered on Waterloo Bridge and turned it into a garden, woodland, kindergarten, skateboard park and yoga area.

Meanwhile, decent folk who have a living to make were hugely inconvenienced as these ghastly, self-righteous demonstrators were allowed to do whatever they chose unchecked. One van driver called my radio show and almost wept as he said he'd spent money he couldn't afford on a van that passed the ULEZ restrictions recently brought in by London regulators. He was on a zero hours contract, hadn't been able to work and was told he would be earning no money at all last week.

"How am I meant to pay for my family with no money coming in," he asked plaintively.

Truth is that the likes of Tarquin, Tabitha and Josh, busy dancing on the bridge, do not give a damn about those people. They're "trustafarians" with no financial worries as they live off their parents' trust funds, so can stay for weeks before needing to go back to the Cotswolds and tap up mater or pater.

I sent one of the reporters on my LBC radio show to ask protesters what they did for a living, how they were able to take a week off work and how their bosses might react if they heard them on the radio or saw them in the newspapers or on the TV.

The list of jobs was hilarious. One helped provide pronunciation for audio books, another was a "nature conservator", whatever that is, while another proudly said she was a "freelance choir instructor". Who knew that job even existed? Perhaps, however, one of the most revealing was an actor, who said he was working in Malta but had some time off so came back. As it's highly unlikely he walked or cycled, it



FOR ONCE the EU said something with which it is impossible to disagree. Their chief negotiator for the split with the UK (see, I avoided using the B word again!) Guy Verhofstadt pointed out the first decision the UK parliament took after being granted an extension was to go on holiday.

Then European Council President Donald Tusk rightly chided our politicians and urged them not to waste this crucial time.

It is beyond embarrassing that our elected so-called great and good have done this and even more revealing have been some of the holiday snaps that they have posted.

One showed an MP larking in a field of tulips in Amsterdam, while another showed one strolling along a Devon beach. Yet another tweeted how she was by a log fire in a Welsh cottage in desperate need of some relaxation. Utterly insulting. Let them have the Easter

weekend off, then back to work. After all, they've caused these unbearable delays.

Credit therefore to Jeremy Corbyn (words I never thought I'd write) who actually stuck with it and went campaigning. Although, it has to be said, his choice of "photo opportunity" – paddling a canoe on dry land – was at best questionable.

Fortunately, it appeared he did have a paddle and wasn't up any sort of creek!

seems safe to assume he used an aircraft, thereby increasing his carbon footprint.

Others said they were able to work from the demos as they'd set up wi-fi hot spots so could log in via laptops and phones, again missing the point that it is the supposedly evil world of global capitalism that has allowed that technology to develop.

In this bizarre pageant of inaction that has brought shame on the Met police, London's mayor and administration and the reputation of the entire nation, it is difficult to decide which one image best illustrates the insanity. Was it the four protesters who glued themselves to the fence of Jeremy Corbyn's home, with one reportedly tearful because Mr Corbyn opted not to speak with them, nor his wife accept

their offer of chocolates? Or that a pink yacht has been allowed to stay in the centre of London's shopping hub, Oxford Street, for days?

For me it was the sight of two coppers in those obligatory hi-vis vests dancing with some of Swampy's chums. Is that what we pay them for?

Mayor Sadiq Khan proved he is Mayor Can't and that his claim to be a business-friendly mayor is risible with shops estimating they were losing £15million a day. The Met's Cressida Dick has serious questions to answer, not least: is she civil libertarian or police commissioner?

Meanwhile the world looks on at events in Paris that made us cry while goings-on in London could make us weep.

MY VERY best wishes to you and yours for a safe, peaceful and enjoyable Easter break – assuming you are able to get some time off, of course – and can I take this opportunity to thank you for all the emails and letters I receive. They might not all get individual replies, but they all get read. And I'm hugely grateful.

Tune into Nick Ferrari at breakfast every weekday morning from 7am on LBC 97.3FM

Call for more spy cameras

MORE surveillance cameras should be installed on Britain's streets to combat the growing knife crime epidemic, a former government minister has said.

The call comes from Tory peer Lord Selkirk of Douglas, who as a member of John Major's government ordered initial pilot schemes before CCTV became common in the 1990s.

Although in wide use, there are many blind spots where attackers have not been picked up.

Last year, 132 people were fatally stabbed in London alone. The total so far this year is 20.

Across the UK the number of

By **David Maddox**
POLITICAL EDITOR

killings, including murder and manslaughter, rose from 649 to 730 – 14 per cent up on last year.

Knife crime increased by eight per cent overall.

The former Scotland Office minister will call for more cameras next week in the Lords.

Lord Selkirk said: "What we found when I was a minister was that CCTV had a dramatic impact in those pilot schemes and reduced crime significantly."

"That led to their increased use but I think we should consider

going further with it as a means of tackling this dreadful problem of knife crime."

There are currently thought to be 5.9 million CCTV cameras in the UK, one for every 11 people.

Prime Minister Theresa May hosted an emergency knife summit at Downing Street earlier this month in an effort to tackle the scourge.

Mrs May met with experts in youth violence and said that tackling the problem should be a "priority" for her ministers.

She also warned that "we cannot simply arrest ourselves" out of the problem of violent crime.



EXCLUSIVE

By **Jon Austin** CRIME EDITOR

A GANG of travellers is thought to be behind an illegal waste disposal racket that has seen 100 sites covered with tons of rubbish.

It is thought the group illegally dumps truckloads of rubble and other commercial waste in a matter of days in one place then moves on to another location.

The latest dumping ground is a former car auction site in Enfield, north London, which has been left in a shocking state after a sea of rubbish was left.

Environment Agency investigators, who are on the trail of the gang, said it took the criminals just three days to fill the vacant ground with hundreds of tons of waste.

So far, no arrests have been made, but prosecutions of some suspects are expected to follow.

The Enfield site was covered in all sorts of waste, including tyres,

WE'RE ON THE CASE:
Environment Agency
area director **Simon Hawkins** and team
leader **Emma Viner** at
a dumping ground in
Chingford, London



'We're now seeing organised criminal groups targeting the waste industry'

doors, plastic bottles, timber, metals, chairs and mattresses.

The organised gang is thought to have covered at least 100 individual sites across London and the Home Counties over the past 18 months, leaving combined clean-up costs for local councils and private owners running into millions of pounds.

EA area director Simon Hawkins said: "Waste crime, and its impact on the environment, landowners and local communities, is not to be underestimated."

"We're now seeing organised criminal groups targeting the waste and recycle industry determined to make a profit at the expense of the environment and local communities."

"This investigation is just one example of our officers working with the police and local authorities to bring waste criminals to justice."

Criminal waste gangs claim to be rubbish disposal firms, charging companies and individuals to get rid of their mess.

Much of the waste being dumped stems from small-scale property developers who are attracted to the "cheaper" disposal rates offered by criminals. But the waste producers can also be prosecuted as they

have to take reasonable steps to ensure their rubbish is properly disposed of.

The gang currently being investigated is thought to be a group of travellers, who move from site to site dumping waste.

The EA said the group is behind one of the biggest examples of organised tipping ever seen.

An EA spokeswoman said: "The sites have been of varying scales depending on the amount of time the group has been present on them. We are currently undergoing a criminal investigation with the view of prosecuting, where possible, those responsible."

The owner of the Enfield site, who is now responsible for disposing of the waste, is facing a clean-up bill of around £80,000 and has had to put up security fencing.

Enfield Council is now helping the EA to investigate the gang through Operation Angola, which aims to identify and prosecute as many offenders as possible.

Investigators have been able to link the sites to one gang through registration plates of vehicles being used and other intelligence. The EA

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Pictures: JON AUSTIN

TRAVELLERS USE 100 SITES AS ILLEGAL DUMPS



spokeswoman added: "We have initially established links due to the modus operandi of the group."

"We've then worked with partners to establish linked vehicles and individuals we suspect to be involved."

An Enfield Council spokeswoman said: "Enfield Council's waste enforcement team has worked very closely with the EA and the Metropolitan Police during incursions in Enfield, on both council-owned land and private land."

"The team has provided a number of witness statements to the EA identifying vehicles and individuals that have been observed on CCTV fly-tipping large amounts of waste to enable it to take prosecutions."

She said that, since 2014, the council has spent £3million clearing up such sites.

Illegal dumping has also been linked to other organised crimes such as modern-day slavery and money laundering through connected legitimate waste businesses.

The EA has warned anyone disposing of waste through third parties to check on the EA website that they are a registered waste carrier.

'We need tougher measures to tackle fly-tipping'



A FARMER who is targeted by commercial fly-tippers most weeks has called for tougher powers to deal with the menace.

Ed Ford, pictured, farms around 600 hectares of arable land off the A127 near Brentwood in Essex and regularly has waste dumped on his land.

Mr Ford said he has to pay to remove about 40 tons of illegally dumped waste from his fields each year.

He said: "We have had fridges, freezers,

a lot of ex-cannabis growing equipment. The police say they want to catch them, but here they do not seem interested."

Mr Ford said the tipping epidemic has worsened over the past three years.

He is now witnessing a scam where the by-product of the plastic recycling process is regularly being dumped from 20-ton lorries onto his land.

He said: "This is something that needs real investigation because it is coming from a

legitimate recycler somewhere and there cannot be too many of them in the area."

The latest pile of waste, pictured, was found by him last month.

He said: "We turned vigilante on one occasion when we caught this guy in the act of tipping. We cornered him in the lorry but he rammed us out of the way."

"We need more support from police and proper sentences for those who are caught and more investigation into rural crime."



The cruellest of bans

Care homes refusing to let relatives who complain in to visit their loved ones

HUNDREDS of care homes are banning relatives from visiting elderly residents if they complain, a charity claimed last night.

The Relatives and Residents Association said that, over the past five years, they have dealt with at least one case a week in which relatives were barred from homes after complaining about poor treatment of loved ones.

And they warned the problem is getting worse.

The association is now sending a dossier of cases to the care home regulator, the Care Quality Commission, demanding action be taken.

The news follows a report last week that claimed vulnerable care home residents are being evicted after families raise fears about their treatment.

The Care Campaign for the Vulnerable also said it was in contact with one elderly resident who is threatened with eviction every week after a complaint about their care.

In another case, a care home reportedly threatened to increase fees as a result of a complaint.

New figures by the CQC also show 2,141 in care homes were served an eviction notice last year.

Experts believe many of these evictions were prompted by complaints from residents or their relatives.

Judy Downey, chairwoman of the Relatives and Residents Association, which campaigns for quality of life for those in care, said: "We are coming into contact with an increasing number of people who are banned or restricted after complaining about a care home."

"Most are too afraid to speak out in case of further repercussions on loved

EXCLUSIVE

By **Lucy Johnston**
SOCIAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

ones. We believe the cases that come to us are the tip of the iceberg. The Care Quality Commission, as the care home regulator, has the power to take enforcement action, including prosecuting providers who abuse their powers in this way.

"But it is ignoring the issue by neither monitoring or investigating restrictions and evictions. We will be sending representations demanding it monitors what is going on. How many relatives are restricted or barred from

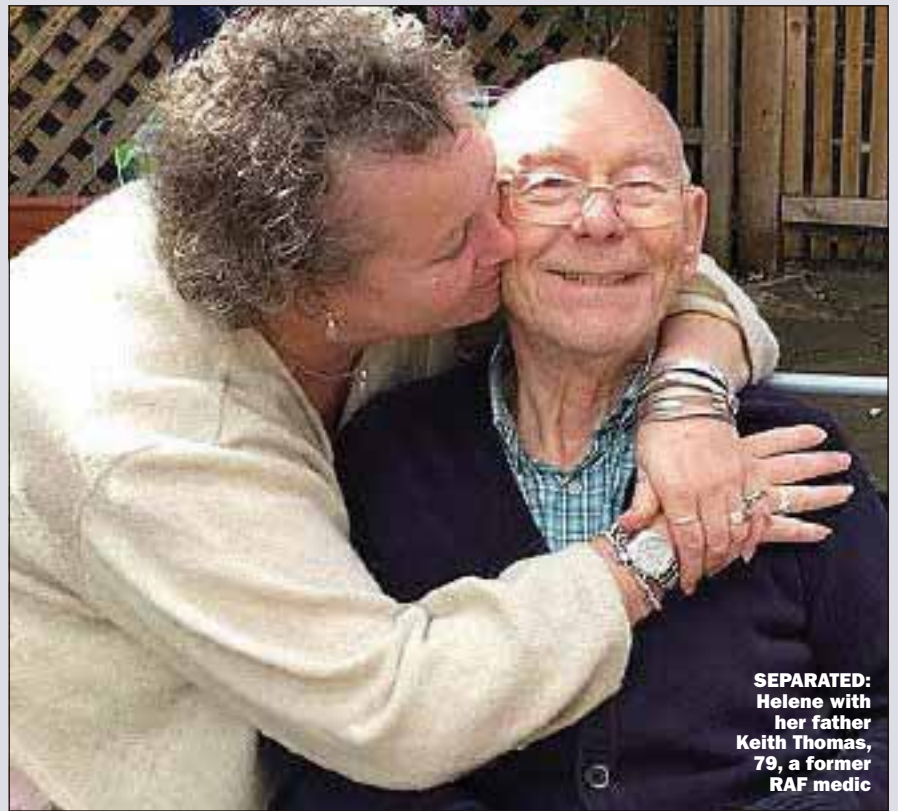
visiting relatives and why? How many residents are evicted and why? We are regularly getting people phoning up with this problem and the numbers have been increasing.

"Instead of engaging with families positively and welcoming their comments and complaints, these are too often seen as a threat and treated with hostility. Banning relatives or evicting residents is an abuse of power and an affront to human rights."

Debbie Westhead, interim chief inspector of adult social care at the CQC, said: "It is essential that people feel able to raise concerns about the care their loved ones are receiving. We must never forget that care homes are people's homes and those living there should feel supported to live a full and happy life."

Martin Green, chief executive of Care England, which represents independent care providers, said: "There are 490,000 residents in care and over one million visitors. This is a relatively small problem, though obviously not for those people affected."

SUNDAY EXPRESS CRUSADE



SEPARATED:
Helene with
her father
Keith Thomas,
79, a former
RAF medic

'I wasn't allowed to see my father for six weeks'

FORMER psychiatric nurse Helene Thomas was banned from seeing her father for six weeks after she complained about his care home.

Her father Keith, 79, moved into a residential home after being diagnosed with dementia in February 2017.

But when the former RAF medic became distressed and started self-harming, Mrs Thomas, 55, raised concerns about his welfare.

The home said it wanted to "tweak his medication" and suggested that while it did so,

Case study

any visitors could cause his behaviour to deteriorate.

But after his family were told to stay away, Mr Thomas became so frustrated, he repeatedly hit his head against a wall and had to be hospitalised.

Mrs Thomas, who lives in Stowmarket, Suffolk, claimed that care homes often have "unnecessary powers" and said the way she had been treated left her "distracted and

furiously". "Banning me was totally wrong," she said.

"During the time my father was not allowed to see me, he self-harmed to the point of needing an ambulance so the policy clearly didn't help."

She added: "Care home owners do not own residents. They own property."

"Residents are the ultimate responsibility of families."

"Care home owners are paid extremely well. They should not have the power to make decisions over and above what a family wants."

Guidance is small step to Charlie's Law



TRAGIC: Charlie Gard died aged 11 months

THE parents of an 11-month-old boy who died after a high-profile legal battle over his care have said more must be done to prevent conflict between doctors and parents.

In 2017, Chris Gard and Connie Yates fought with doctors over the treatment of their son, Charlie Gard, who had been diagnosed with mitochondrial DNA depletion syndrome.

When Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London said there was no hope for Charlie, his parents wanted to take him to the US for treatment.

The hospital opposed this move, arguing Charlie should be

By **News Reporter**

taken off life support. Following lengthy court battles, Charlie died in July 2017.

New guidance released on Thursday by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health suggested parents should avoid posting on social media about their sick children, as Charlie's did, to avoid conflicts.

It also warned doctors against giving families unrealistic expectations of their child's future.

But Mr Gard and Ms Yates said on Friday the guidance is a "small step" and does not go far enough to "safeguard the doctor-

patient relationship by preventing conflicts".

They said: "It is important to remain open to the possibility that the parents might just be right, not to dismiss them as ignorant, manipulated by external interests or egged on by social media."

"This approach serves to exacerbate conflict and enshrine the paternalistic approach that we need to get away from."

Mr Gard and Ms Yates are campaigning for "Charlie's Law", which would give parents of sick children more support and choice in the treatment of their child.



Mr Gard and Ms Yates

I was high in the charts yet had to punch sex pests to be left alone

Star on fighting off club bosses and her support for #MeToo



MYSTERY GIRL: Toyah now and, above, one of her wild early performances

EIGHTIES singer Toyah Willcox was groped and sexually harassed during her pop heyday and had to be chaperoned to protect her from sex pest club bosses.

The star, who had hits with *It's A Mystery* and *I Want To Be Free*, has revealed a string of shocking encounters at the beginning of her career.

At a club where she was performing, she was warned that the owner expected to sleep with her and was urged to have an escort to the toilets. In another encounter, a director asked her to remove her top during an audition, forcing her to walk out.

Toyah also fended off sex pests by punching them and reveals that the pressure to be thin was so great that she was weighed by a dietitian before being on *Top Of The Pops*.

The singer, who has just released the album *In The Court Of The Crimson Queen*, welcomes the #MeToo movement because it gives "vulnerable women a voice".

Toyah, 60, who first took to the stage in 1977, aged just 19, says: "It was unbelievable being a woman very much in a man's world. We mostly played working men's clubs, I don't want to put these places down as the audiences were fantastic but you were just groped. There are even photographs out there of me being groped."

"Some extreme things have happened to me. My band really looked after me, though. I remember going to a club in Leeds in 1979. I arrived and my lighting man said, 'Do not stay here alone, the owner thinks he has the right to sleep with

By **Alex Belfield**

you. Don't even think of going to the ladies without one of us escorting you'.

"It's cool, that's what my band did, they looked after me. As for the casting couch, there's one I'm actually quite proud of. This director was legendary. I arrived and I was asked to take my top off. I put two and two together and I just walked. But that happened in those days, it did happen."

She adds: "What #MeToo has done has given vulnerable women a voice. I've felt

'I had a dietitian who weighed me weekly'

no need to take part in #MeToo because to be quite honest I just used my fists. There's a few men out there who would use #MeToo on me! I just smashed them in the face – I had no qualms about that at all."

Toyah has since worked in music, theatre, TV, radio and film, as well as producing, directing and managing her own career. She's been in 40 plays and 20 films, including cult 1979 mod movie *Quadrophenia*.

Since 1986 she has been married to Robert Fripp, 12 years her senior, leader of progressive rock band King Crimson. In fact her new album is a nod to their 1969 debut, *In The Court Of The Crimson King*.

Of stardom Toyah says: "I knew that I

was not tall or particularly feminine and that I had to be individualistic. I knew that was how I was going to survive. That made me bombastic and full of bravado, I just knew I hadn't got the feminine card to play.

"If I could go back to when I was conceived and choose a supermodel's body I would because they have an easier life. I decided I had to be tomboyish to survive.

"Back then I was 3st heavier, today there's nothing wrong with that but I knew that as soon as I was signed to a label I had to lose that weight. I didn't mind at all. I kind of lost it on *Quadrophenia* as we were on so many amphetamines to get through, all of us were all popping pills.

"Back then it was expected of you. I had a dietitian who weighed me weekly. I was weighed before *Top Of The Pops*.

"It's a fantastic time for women, they can have multiple partners. It was hard to do that 30 or 40 years ago. They can be gay, straight or choose their gender. That's all really healthy. It's nobody's business.

"Sixty has been one of the best years of my life. I'm about to turn 61 and finally feel I'm arriving thanks to my writing partnership with Simon Darlow." Darlow worked with leading record producer Trevor Horn in the 80s, writing songs such as *Slave To The Rhythm* for Grace Jones.

"My new album is some of my best work," says Toyah. "If it is my swansong I'll be very happy with it."

● *In The Court Of The Crimson Queen* is out now

Polanski sues Oscars organisers over expulsion

FUGITIVE film director Roman Polanski is suing the Academy in Hollywood after being kicked out of the Oscars organisation.

The *Chinatown* and *Rosemary's Baby* director was ejected from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at the same time as shamed comedy actor Bill Cosby, who was jailed last September for sex offences.

A lawyer for Polanski, who fled the United States after being charged with the alleged rape of a 13-year-old girl in 1978, claimed that he was expelled "without warning" and with no chance

By **Jon Coates**

to respond or to appeal against the decision.

Harland Braun filed a writ on behalf of the French-Polish filmmaker at the Los Angeles Superior Court and will pursue legal action against the Hollywood institution on grounds that his expulsion was unfair.

The Academy responded within hours, saying its removal of Polanski from its ranks will not be reversed.

It said: "The procedures taken to expel Mr Polanski were fair and

reasonable. The Academy stands behind its decision as appropriate."

Polanski, 85, who won a best director Oscar for *The Pianist* in 2002, was told of his ejection in a letter citing the need to respect "human dignity".

Documents say the intention of his legal action is to "redress the Academy's improper administrative action" to "summarily expel" Polanski.

Braun said: "We are litigating the fairness of their procedure. They threw him out without warning and without giving him a chance to respond. There was

not even any notice of why, after 40 years, on the same day as Cosby."

Polanski, who has been married three times, was voted out of the Academy last May, receiving an unsigned letter from the organisation which has been made available to the court.

The letter states: "The board continues to encourage ethical standards that require members to uphold the Academy's values of respect and human dignity, and is categorically opposed to any form of abuse and harassment."



THROWN OUT: Roman Polanski

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'MARINE A' ON LIFE AFTER PRISON

I survived jail for killing an insurgent. I'll now dedicate my life to helping veterans

Picture: FLASHFOTO

EXCLUSIVE

By **Marco Giannangeli**
DEFENCE EDITOR

THE CALL from the Royal Marine officer was unexpected, and the request it contained sent a chill through Alexander Blackman's body.

Would he, as a fellow former Royal Marine freshly released from prison, advise another veteran facing an imminent sentence about how to survive the ordeal that lay before him?

It was almost four years since 'Marine A' last stepped into a courtroom; on that day in 2013 he was sentenced by court martial to 10 years for shooting a fatally injured Taliban insurgent.

Branded a murderer and disowned by his regiment, he might have been forgiven for wanting to have nothing to do with the forces. But for Alexander – known as Al – who had vowed to use his life to help veterans, there was only one answer: "Yes, of

'A dishonourable discharge was what hurt most'

course". He says: "I was asked whether I'd help make his transition as easy as possible. Why wouldn't I?"

The 6ft 4in Marine had been hurled into a public storm after video footage emerged of him seemingly "dispatching" the insurgent in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Yet even before an appeal found that he'd been suffering from mental health issues and reduced his conviction to manslaughter, and before the regiment revoked its dishonourable discharge, Al knew that his belief in the Royal Marines would remain unshaken.

Now Al, 44, has told his traumatic tale in the book, *Marine A*. Not only does he not bear a grudge but he also made it a point, after his release, to join its charity and support network in his desire to help veterans.

That's on top of his day job for new non-profit organisation ExFor+, which helps former personnel from across the Armed Forces find work and support.

Among them, he knows, will be those who survived improvised explosive devices only to

STARTING OVER: Al with wife Claire and Dave the dog



find they'd been walking through a minefield of mental health time bombs. It had happened to him.

"My dishonourable discharge was the thing that hurt the most, I saw it wash away any good I may have done over 16 years," he said last night. "It was such a relief when the appeal judges took that stain away, boiling it down to an administrative discharge – the same as if I'd chosen to leave."

Proudly, he adds: "I'm still part of the Royal Marines family: despite what some may think, they didn't turn their back on me."

"Even before my appeal I received visits in prison from the Commandant General, the Corps RSM and padre. The support for my wife Claire continued, too."

It took several interviews before what he'd been arrested over became clear. "We were involved in a fair few firefights and, however you want to look at it, insurgents were killed. So when someone starts talking about the death of an insurgent, you scratch your head and think,

'Which one?' Then they talk about a wounded insurgent and, again, you wonder which one?"

Military police played him a video found on another marine's headcam and the penny dropped. In it a sergeant orders his unit to halt first aid to the Taliban fighter, shot by an Apache Gunship. The case for murder centred on Al

'It was good that everyone wasn't against me'

firing his 9mm automatic, killing him with the words: "Shuffle off this mortal coil, you ****, it's nothing you wouldn't do to us."

He says: "I began to wonder about the rest of my life. It wasn't good viewing, not my finest hour." Remarkably, he underwent no mental health test before conviction, and new evidence that he was suffering adjustment disorder,

a type of combat stress, was key to winning his second appeal. But first he had to survive prison.

Claire faithfully made the eight-hour round trip to HMP Lincoln from Somerset, ferrying relatives and friends on a rota. Al had ignored the advice of military police to grow his hair long and lose his military identifiers.

"I didn't agree with the conviction, but I wasn't going to abandon who I was," he says.

Rumours circulated that the loner who spent days in his cell reading was a sex offender. Then an inmate knocked on his door. "He told me: 'Don't worry, I've let the lads know who you are, you're that Marine'. It was good to understand everyone wasn't against me."

Before long he was helping inmates pass GCSEs. "A simple thank you inside meant the world to me," he recalls. "I knew I'd made a very small difference to that person's rehabilitation."

His advice to that Exeter veteran typifies the attitude that saw

him survive suicide watch and thrive. "There are a lot of ex-service personnel working as prison officers. I told him that being polite goes a long way."

It was the lesson he tried to tell inmates at Lincoln, the Victorian prison "just like Porridge" which had threatened to be his home for the next decade.

Al has been outside an institution, either army or jail, for two years. His book ("to set the record straight") helped him settle: "I tried to make it as honest as possible, I'm happy that readers make up their own minds." Now, ghosts slain, he and Claire have a new home in Somerset. "It's a fresh start," he says. "We're looking forward to what comes ahead."

● To order *Marine A* (Mirror Books, £20), free P&P, visit expressbookshop.co.uk, call 01872 562310 or send a cheque/postal order made payable to Express Bookshop to Marine A Offer, PO Box 200, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 4WJ.

**'MISTAKES': Hutchins**

Hack 'hero' faces prison

A BRITISH computer expert hailed as a hero for stopping a cyber attack on the NHS two years ago faces at least five years in a US jail after admitting writing malware.

Marcus Hutchins, 24, from Ilfracombe, Devon, was arrested by the FBI in Las Vegas as he waited to board a flight home after attending a computer hacking convention in August 2017.

According to court documents he pleaded guilty to two counts of writing the malware Kronos which has been used to steal bank data.

On his website Hutchins said: "I regret these actions and accept full responsibility for my mistakes."

'Shirley Valentine' won't be jailed for taking baby

**GREEK ROMANCE: Marie Golby with former lover Giorgos Manentis**

A "SHIRLEY Valentine" convicted by a Greek court of "snatching" a baby 12 years ago will not be sent to serve her sentence after a judge said her extradition would "breach her human rights".

In 2006 Marie Golby, now 53, took the six-month-old daughter of a Romanian gypsy from Athens to the island of Kefalonia, pretending the child was her former partner's.

She was charged with procuring and abetting an illicit adoption but returned to the UK before a trial could take place in 2010.

In December she was shocked to learn she was still facing extradition to Greece as she believed the case was closed more than eight years ago.

However, it emerged in court in the UK that the charges against Golby, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, were never dropped.

Westminster magistrates heard that in 2017 a trial was held in Greece in Golby's absence and sentenced her to eight years in prison. But to her relief, presiding Westminster judge John Zani declined a request to send her

By **Jon Austin** CRIME EDITOR

there. He said: "Marie Golby was aware of these proceedings when she chose to leave Crete for the UK.

"She had been bailed by the court with conditions inter alia not to leave her nominated address on the island.

"In my opinion the offence set out in the European Arrest Warrant is clearly serious and in the event of conviction for like criminal conduct in the UK a prison sentence of some length may be imposed."

Hearing that Golby took an overdose in an apparent suicide bid in February because of her fears over extradition, he said that meant her human rights would be breached if she was forced to go with no prospect of a retrial.

The Shirley Valentine-style romance on Kefalonia started in 2005 when Golby met local Giorgos Manentis. She became pregnant in February, 2006, later suffering two miscarriages. The relationship soured and she falsely told Mr Manentis she had given birth to their daughter.

'The warrant is clearly serious'

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Wouldn't it be nice if you could wake up happy?



POP CLASSIC: The Beach Boys released *Good Vibrations* in 1966

Scientists find starting the day with the Beach Boys rather than alarm is path to good vibrations

CATCHY pop songs or classical melodies are better to wake up to than a jarring alarm clock, research has found.

Happy, uplifting music such as the Beach Boys' *Good Vibrations* or Beethoven's *Fur Elise* drives away the drowsiness that affects many in the morning, according to scientists.

Their study found the insistent beeps of alarm clocks do not dispel the groggy, disorientated feeling known as "sleep inertia".

That can lead to confusion, clumsiness and sluggish brain performance, which has been linked to car accidents in drivers who have just woken up as their reaction times are slower.

It has also been implicated in plane crashes where pilots have taken the controls just after a nap.

But researchers in Australia believe they have found a solution – with other effective tunes being Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and The Cure's *Close To Me*.

The scientists examined how 50 people woke at home and the impact this had on their mental performance in the hours after getting out of bed.

They found that those who had listened to melodic music suffered lower levels of sleep inertia.

Stuart McFarlane, the lead author of the study at RMIT University in Melbourne, said: "When they wake up, people experiencing sleep inertia may show signs of reduced alertness and reduced cognition, manifesting in inadvertent mistakes.

"It can last for seconds, minutes or hours. Research suggests that

By **Jon Coates**

'difficulty in waking up' is a common experience and one that many of us share."

Professor Adrian Dyer, who led the study, said melodic music appeared to almost neutralise sleep inertia, adding: "A sound that is perceived as melodic produces less sleep inertia in comparison to a sound considered to be neutral."

The researchers believe their findings could be used to design new alarm clocks for waking people without causing sleep inertia.

Recent surveys have shown a growing number of people use the alarms on their mobiles to wake, so an app playing music could be a better option.

Prof Dyer added sounds of nature, which have become a popular wake-up call on apps, could also be effective if they contain bird song.

Sleep inertia is a particular problem for shift workers or people on call overnight.

It was also a likely factor in the crash of an Air India Express flight that resulted in 158 deaths in 2010, when the captain took the controls after waking from an in-flight nap.

Dr Dyer added: "Reducing sleep inertia can provide a safer environment where performance is critical."

● *Top four tunes to wake up to: Good Vibrations (1966); Close To Me (1985); Fur Elise (1810); The Four Seasons (1723).*



JOY: *Fur Elise* by Beethoven

OPINION: PAGE 14

Russia backs 'illegitimate regime'

RUSSIAN troops that have landed in Venezuela are there to prop up an "illegitimate regime", the UK Government has claimed.

Poverty and violence have led 3.4 million Venezuelans to flee the country since 2014, and there are fears of all-out civil war.

Nicolas Maduro is refusing to surrender power while the UK and the US have recognised opposition

leader Juan Guaido as the country's interim president.

UK Foreign Minister Lord Ahmad said: "We believe that the arrival of Russian military aircraft, military personnel, and equipment... seeks to prop up the illegitimate regime of Nicolas Maduro at a time when Venezuelans need humanitarian support, economic stability, and a functioning democracy."

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TRAUMATISED: SuRie has sought medical aid after Eurovision

Eurovision left me with PTSD

By Ed Gleave

FORMER Eurovision star SuRie has told how a stage invasion during last year's Song Contest left her with PTSD.

Her performance of Storm at event in Lisbon was interrupted by a protester who wrestled the microphone from her.

SuRie, 30, said: "I was composed on stage. But once I was off stage the emotions really hit – the shock, the fear, the confusion, the anger."

"It was quite a traumatic thing to go through. Everything is always so amplified at Eurovision even when things go smoothly. So when they don't go smoothly something like that can have a huge impact."

"I kept thinking everything was fine. But I wasn't fine. I was getting quite emotional at gigs. And it affected my everyday life. When people approached me I found it quite worrying."

"I was diagnosed with the stress disorder. When the doctor said that I thought 'Come on, it's Eurovision – this isn't a war zone'. But he explained that what happened to me was so abnormal that it had really affected me."

SuRie, real name Susanna Marie Cork, has been getting support in recent months to help her cope.

She said: "I have had great friends and family around me. And I've worked through everything with some medical help. Those 10 seconds didn't taint what was a fantastic experience. I still loved it."

After the incident, the stage invader was bailed by police but



STAGE PROTEST: Dr ACactivism

almost a year on no further action has been taken.

SuRie said: "The police in Portugal are taking their time. I gave my witness testimony in February, but the case is still ongoing."

"I don't approve of what he did. But I try to see the good in everyone. I can forgive what he did."

London-based Dr ACactivism, whose real name is Konstantin Bouki, is believed to have been ranting against the UK media.

SuRie was back on stage at the London Eurovision Party.

Her new single Only You And I is out on May 17.

By Jon Coates

AFTER performing death-defying movie stunts for nearly six decades, it is surprising Rocky Taylor has only been seriously injured once.

Despite having 14 Bond films, the Indiana Jones movies and Harry Potter blockbusters on his CV, Britain's oldest stuntman has generally only suffered a few "lumps and bumps".

But he can still vividly remember the one exception – a leap from a burning tower block for *Death Wish 3* which nearly cost him his life.

Rocky, 74, reflects on this brush with death in his autobiography, *Jump Rocky Jump*.

He recalls how the well-planned stunt was made even more dangerous by the 1985 film's controversial director, Michael Winner.

Rocky says: "I can remember Winner saying to the special effects guy as I went up, 'Don't make it like the one last week, I want it to be nice and big'."

"So I think they turned the gas up and it was supposed to flitter around the edge of the building, four or five feet high, but they lit the flames and they were 17ft high and 20ft deep."

"I thought, 'This is not in the script, it has gone wrong', and it was getting so hot, I couldn't breathe. I could hear Winner saying, 'Go Rocky, go. Jump Rocky, jump!'"

With the escape ladder out of reach and the building falling down around him, Rocky was forced to leap through the wall of fire, landing on the edge of a mattress and hitting the ground, breaking his pelvis and back.

He spent 10 weeks in hospital and needed more than a year of physiotherapy to recover, but never once considered a less dangerous career path.

Rocky, who specialises in car rolls and horse stunts, holds three Guinness World Records.

He is also the only man to double for two Bonds in the same year – as Sir Sean Connery in *Never Say Never Again* and as Sir Roger Moore in *Octopussy*, both in 1983.

However, he was impressed by the stunt ability of another Bond, Pierce Brosnan.

"He knew how to throw a

Rocky Taylor recalls jumping from a burning building after film stunt went badly wrong

punch and fight," Rocky said. It is for this reason that he names Brosnan and Connery – who he also doubled for in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* and in the Highlander films – as his favourite Bonds, adding:

"I always thought Pierce had more Bond films in him."

Rocky is also full of praise for Tom Cruise, who he worked with on the *Mission: Impossible* series.

"He is the exception to the rule of actors not doing their own stunts," he said.

"He has a lot of bottle and athleticism, and gets the right people around him so it is safe."

Father-of-three Rocky, who lives in Surrey, also holds records for being the oldest stuntman and for rolling a car through the biggest glass structure – a 20ft by 20ft pane at London's O2.

He set this up for the Remember a Charity campaign and in 2011, he also recreated the *Death Wish 3* leap for them – escaping unscathed this time.

Rocky – whose favourite stunt was driving a

car down the Cresta toboggan run in St Moritz, Switzerland, when he doubled as Peter Cook in *Monte Carlo Or Bust!* in 1969 – started stunt work aged 16.

His father, Larry Taylor, was also an actor and stuntman, but Rocky quickly impressed producers after teaching Sir Cliff Richard a few judo moves for the film, *The Young Ones* in 1961.

"I was a black belt in judo and Cliff needed to learn some judo for a scene, so I went to Elstree Studios and taught him some stuff," Rocky says.

"We got on well so they asked me if I wanted to fight opposite him in the film, which I did."

During the next five years, he learned on the job for TV show *The Avengers*, where he doubled for John Steed, the character played by actor Patrick Macnee.

"I had to learn to ride motorbikes and horses, and to fight. I learned by making mistakes," Rocky says.

The stuntman has recently beaten prostate cancer and is looking forward to working on the next Bond film, starring Daniel Craig, as a stunt co-ordinator.

He says: "A lot of people are in awe of stuntmen but for me, it was just a way to earn a living – and it still is."

● *Jump Rocky Jump* (£12.99) is published by Pegasus Publishers.

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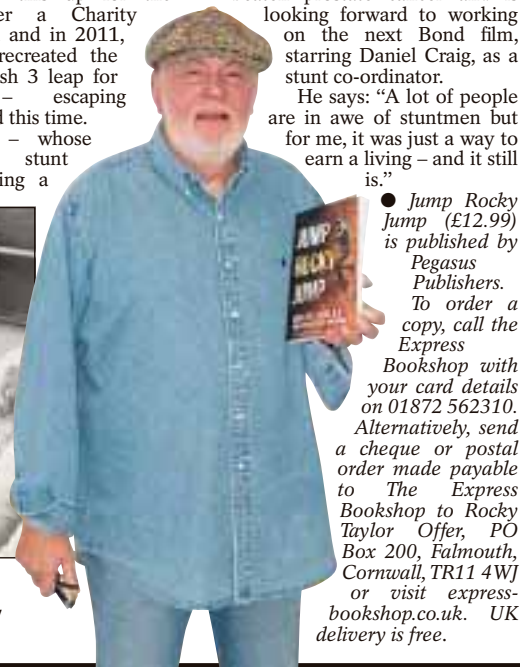
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IN CHARACTER: As Sean Connery in Indiana Jones movie

Number crunching...
205
The number of films and TV shows that Rocky has appeared in

TOUGH GUY: Rocky recovers in hospital after breaking his pelvis and back on the set of *Death Wish 3* in 1985. Inset, Rocky today, with a copy of his autobiography

STUNTMAN'S DEATH-DEFYING FEAT

MOMENT THAT I NEARLY DIED...



LEAP OF FAITH: Rocky jumps from a burning building in stunt that almost killed him. Top, as Sean Connery in *Highlander* with film's star, Christopher Lambert. Above, filming with Brooke Shields. Left, with showgirl. Below, working with Sean Connery, one of his favourite Bonds. Far left, in *Tomorrow Never Dies*



Earth is in danger from space debris

Scientists warn of gravity of the situation

SPACE debris poses a catastrophic risk that could spark a global disaster, a top scientist has warned.

Satellites which operate mobile phone systems, televisions, radio signals, planes and other vital infrastructure services are all at risk of being hit by space "junk", according to Russian expert Dr Igor Ashurbeyli.

That would cause huge disruption to the communications and technology we rely on. It would also have a knock-on effect, with damaged craft creating a greater threat as they hurtle around the Earth.

Dr Ashurbeyli, 55, has pleaded with world governments to make the issue a priority.

The problem was featured in the hit 2013 film *Gravity*, starring George Clooney and Sandra Bullock, in which two astronauts are

By **David Maddox**

trapped in orbit after a blown-up satellite destroys their Apollo craft. As of January, more than 128 million bits of debris smaller than one centimetre, about 900,000 pieces of debris between 1-10cm, and around 34,000 pieces larger than 10cm, were estimated to be in orbit around the Earth.

One of the pieces is a hammer dropped by an astronaut. It is orbiting at more than 17,500mph. Smaller pieces can have more impact than a bullet.

Dr Ashurbeyli said: "Given our reliance on



orbiting technology, ensuring the safety of satellites and future astronauts is more important than ever because, if left unchecked, the dangers posed by space debris will rise exponentially. It could have a devastating effect on space infrastructure.

"The onus is on the space community to ensure the mess we've created on Earth isn't replicated in orbit."

"Ultimately, safety in space is key for all operators and, so far, remedial actions are not being agreed or put in place anything like as quickly as they should be."

The warning comes just a week after

representatives from the "space nation" of Asgardia gathered in Vienna for a major conference.

Asgardia, founded by Dr Ashurbeyli in 2016, is open to anyone and aims to ensure the peaceful use of space. It warned that the threat of a single satellite collision should not be underestimated.

It can result in thousands of pieces of debris, with the threat of serious follow-on collisions. In fact, a big enough incident could create a debris field that renders a large part of an orbit unusable.

Congestion in space is getting worse. As of late 2018 the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs reported that there were 4,857 satellites in orbit, an increase of 4.79 per cent compared to 2017.

STRANDED:
Astronaut George Clooney was trapped in space after his craft was hit in the film *Gravity*

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Race against time to fight cystic fibrosis

SUNDAY EXPRESS
CRUSADE

TIME TO END
CYSTIC FIBROSIS
DRUG SCANDAL



By **Liz Perkins**

CYSTIC Fibrosis sufferers are in a race against time to be given wonder drug Orkambi.

The costly pills are not available on the NHS and charity Cystic Fibrosis Trust is campaigning for them to be put on prescription.

And to help fund the fight, family and friends of CF patients will turn out for the London Marathon.

In Britain one in every 2,500 babies is born with the genetic condition, which affects about 10,400 people in the UK. Their average life expectancy is 39.

People with cystic fibrosis experience a build-up of thick sticky mucus in the lungs, digestive system and other organs, causing a wide range of symptoms affecting the entire body.

Orkambi, made by US drugs giant Vertex, is not routinely prescribed to NHS patients because of prolonged wrangling over the cost.

The Express has been crusading for NHS England to strike a deal with Vertex. The firm refused the NHS's £500million offer last July.

Melanie Sedgwick, 29, and 39-year-old James Algar are among those who will run the mara-

Speedy James is still defying all the odds



RECRUITMENT manager James Algar has always had a steely determination, as his parents were told he would be lucky to live beyond the age of seven.

Now 39 and a married father-of-two, he has refused to allow CF to hold him back and aims to finish the London Marathon in just four hours.

James, from Scunthorpe, said: "It must have been devastating for my parents to be told their first child would not live beyond seven but that was the life expectancy at the time."

James says he has always had a sense of determination and adds: "I am quite hard on myself. I've never run a marathon and didn't think it was something I would be capable of doing."

James says that although there has been huge progress on medication in recent years, he still has to take a "ridiculous amount every day".

Speaking of the row over Orkambi, James said it must be sorted because "there are people who need the medication now."

● To back James and donate to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, visit: cft-londonmarathon19.everydayhero.com/uk/james-1

thon on April 28 to raise money for the Trust, which helps those born with the condition to live long and healthy lives.

Beverley Burnham-Jones, head of community giving and events at the Trust, said: "Our marathon runners are incredibly inspiring."

"The thousands they raise will help fund our vital work in the fight against cystic fibrosis, from world-class research to our campaign calling for life-saving drugs to be made available now on the NHS."

"Running the 26.2 miles through

the capital is no easy feat, but our runners are determined to make a difference."

Former Olympic runner, Roger Black, who has a nephew with cystic fibrosis said: "Good luck to everyone running the Virgin London Marathon for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust."

"I know how much hard work and training you've put in, but believe me it will all be worth it."

"Thanks to your fundraising efforts you're making a real difference to people with cystic fibrosis in the fight for life-saving drugs now."

I train in Spain for Marathon

COMPANY director Melanie Sedgwick is interrupting her Spanish holiday to train along its coastal roads for the London Marathon.

The 29-year-old is running to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Both her husband, Jamie, 39, and her 15-month-old son, Joby, have CF.

They need a variety of different medication, vitamins and enzymes and are faced with daily physiotherapy sessions in order to cope with the disease.

Melanie said: "We avoid social situations where people are ill – it has a massive impact."

"We are extremely cautious about the environment being sterile and surfaces being cleaned."

"It's really about maintaining health and keeping as healthy as you can."

"We make sure Joby does not share cutlery. Activities that other people would not think twice about

have an impact on his health. It's very difficult getting that balance of letting Joby live a normal life and Jamie as well."

"I don't want CF to take over family life."

CF affects the lungs and pancreas, causes mucus in the body to become thick and sticky and affecting those major organs.

Melanie is not a carrier of the condition and was shocked to learn Joby had CF after undergoing six cycles of IVF to bring him into the world.

"It was a bit of a shock when he was diagnosed," she said.

"As my husband had cystic fibrosis we had to have IVF."

"I was screened for the CF mutation and was told I was not a carrier."

"It was a complete surprise."

She said: "I wanted to take part in the London Marathon – I wanted to give it a go. It's a challenge for myself. I wanted to

give something back to the CFTrust and the team that help us with the boys."

"It was January when I started my 17-week training plan and I did a 13-mile run on Monday and I'm due to do an eight mile run on Saturday."

"It's beautiful here in Spain, it's such a lovely run."

Melanie welcomed the Express crusade to make the treatment drug Orkambi, made by US giant Vertex, available to NHS patients.

Melanie said: "I'm hoping that the Government will come to an agreement with Vertex."

"It's completely life-changing and will minimise the affect that CF has on children, which means they will have their whole lives ahead of them. I welcome anything that supports peaceful protest."

"Although it's a really common genetic condition, it's only recognised because of the media attention."

● To donate, visit: cft-londonmarathon19.everydayhero.com/uk/melanie



READY TO RUN: Melanie Sedgwick training in Spain for the Marathon to raise funds for CF victims

Revealed: German receipt for sinking of one of our ships



By Mark Branagan

FACING the guns of the dreaded Graf Spee, a proud Yorkshire skipper was determined his ship would not go down without one last gesture of defiance.

As his crew were taken on to the German battleship from merchant ship SS Streonshalh, Captain Joe Robinson insisted on a receipt for his vessel before she was sent to the bottom.

Fortunately Captain Hans Wilhelm Langsdorff was also a gentleman with a passion for efficiency. He had a two-page receipt typed up and apologised to his "guest".

Late on December 7, 1939, the 32 crew, in life jackets, watched as their ship was sent to the bottom of the Atlantic.

The receipt, found nearly 80 years later in a Yorkshire archive, is on display at Whitby Museum.

The Graf Spee was preying on merchant ships and had already sunk eight others. Captain Robinson recorded: "The commander apologised for having to

'We only got a few splinters'

sink my ship, and told me it was his duty to do so. Fortunes of war, he called it. He also issued me with the receipt for the sinking of my ship."

Robinson was locked up with the captains of ships already sunk, without loss of life. The 29 officers were still in the cell under a gun turret six days later when Graf Spee was engaged by the Royal Navy in the Battle of the River Plate.

Robinson recorded: "All through the battle, no one came to see whether we were alive or dead. One shell from a British warship hit the deck head of our cell but luckily for us it struck a small steel beam and exploded upwards. We only got a few splinters in our cell and no one was hurt."

SS Streonshalh's men were the only crew aboard when Graf Spee limped into Montevideo, crippled by fast cruisers. Robin-



HEROES: SS Streonshalh, above and top, being shelled and, left, Captain Robinson



son and Langsdorff stood together at the funerals of German sailors before Robinson took a Royal Mail ship home. After scuttling the Germans' pride and joy, Langsdorff shot himself in Buenos Aires, lying on his ship's battle ensign.

Robinson, who had been torpedoed in the First World War, was appointed an OBE for his courage. He survived even though his next ship was sunk by a dive bomber. The receipt for SS Streonshalh became "one of his most treasured possessions" say his family. When he died aged 73 at home near Whitby in 1972 his son, Captain Joe Robinson Jnr,

donated the receipt to Whitby Museum with a note saying: "This document is quite important and fairly unique in the maritime sense."

The receipt stayed in the archives until found by retired admirals, shipping magnates and historians last summer. "It was a chance remark that made us look to find out more about Captain Robinson and the story we found was incredible," says shipping curator Dennis Buck.

The receipt is now centre of a display on the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the River Plate.

Oddly, Captain Robinson appeared as a POW in the 1956 film of the same name. He was played by Patrick Dove, a captain and fellow Graf Spee captive. Dove was portrayed by Bernard Lee, 'M' in the Bond movies.

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Stars you won't be seeing in the new Sex And The City



SEX And The City is returning to TV in 2020 – without a single member of the original cast.

Kim Cattrall, Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon and Kristin Davis will not be involved in the new show, and none of their characters will even be mentioned.

Instead, the sequel series will be based on a new book called *Is There Still Sex In The City?* written by Candace Bushnell, who devised the original show idea.

Ms Bushnell's *Sex And The City* book spawned the hugely successful TV series, which ran from 1998 to 2004 and spawned two spin-off movies.

The show won seven Emmy and eight Golden Globe awards and ran for 94 episodes.

All six seasons of the iconic comedy drama continue to make big money for the HBO network and the original stars in syndicated re-runs around the world.

Ms Bushnell will serve as a script-writer and executive producer on the new show.

But attempts to reunite the cast have long been thwarted by a bitter public feud between Ms Cattrall, 62, and Ms Parker, 54.

Neither they nor Ms Nixon, 53, or Ms Davis, 54, will figure in the new series, which is being made by Paramount TV and independent Hollywood production company Anonymous Content.

Instead, the show will follow completely new characters in what the studio describes as Ms Bushnell's "piercing, sly and sometimes heartbreaking

From **Mike Parker** IN LOS ANGELES

look at sex, dating and friendship in New York City after the age of 50".

The author said her new book, and the new show, "looks at love and life from all angles: marriage and children, divorce and bereavement, as well as the very real pressures on women to maintain their youth and have it all".

Casting for the show is expected to begin as soon as Ms Bushnell completes her pilot script.

A senior executive source at Paramount confirmed there will be no parts for the original stars.

He added: "The irony is that all four actresses have now reached exactly the right ages for this follow-up show.

"But we are pressing ahead with new characters and a new cast."

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CREATOR: Candace Bushnell has written a sequel to her hit books



How East End gang fooled shamed Sultan into buying 'ringed' cars

EXCLUSIVE

By **Jon Austin** CRIME EDITOR

THE Sultan of Brunei inadvertently bought a fleet of stolen super cars, including his own personal Bentley, from a gang of East End criminals, it has been revealed.

The Sultan became embroiled in an international multimillion pound probe into the export of stolen performance cars from the UK to the Far East after members of his staff unwittingly purchased the vehicles.

Details of the Sultan's involvement were revealed by a former intelligence officer. The revelations come as the sultan is propelled into the headlines over his hard-line stance on homosexuals who could now be stoned to death.

The former Met Police detective sergeant, who uses the pseudonym Frank Matthews, said: "A crime syndicate connected to corrupt cops was supplying the sultan with stolen Mercedes cars and his personal Bentley was a stolen 'ringer'." I worked covertly on the case."

Mr Matthews said a major East End gang was making millions in the early 1990s due to there being no franchises for Mercedes and other performance cars in the Far East at the time.

The vehicles were first sent to Malaysia and also ended up in the ownership of royalty there.

He said: "I was getting fed this



MAKING MILLIONS: The gang cheated the Sultan of Brunei as there were no Far East franchises for performance cars at the time

information from sources in the criminal underworld about how they got the vehicles out there and that the gang were laughing their heads off at the Sultan of Brunei being driven around in a 'ringed' Bentley. The King of Malaysia also received a ringer."

It is understood members of royalty in Malaysia and Brunei were oblivious of the crime but a team from the Met Police car squad established the facts.

Mr Matthews said: "This was a major criminal enterprise. The East End gang had criminal con-

'The criminals were laughing their heads off at the Sultan being driven around in a stolen Bentley'

tacts in Malaysia who helped them get the stolen vehicles in and they were often paid in drugs then smuggled back into the UK."

The gangs, who had corrupt people working in the DVLA and shipping companies, were stealing nearly new vehicles from the wealthy before "ringing" them to appear as different cars.

Ringing involves removing chassis and engine numbers and replacing them with new ones before registering the vehicle as new with false plates and log book. The crooks used insiders in

the shipping industry to export them in a container said to have an entirely different load.

A major operation was put together by the Met Police car squad to work with officials in Malaysia and other Far Eastern countries to try to crack the gang.

The team made several visits to Malaysia with Foreign Office permission to identify the stolen cars. Specialist insurance investigators were used. A police spokesman said records did not go far back enough to comment and no-one from the Sultan made a statement.



Heiress faces jail for giving 'sex cult' £77m



GUILTY: Heiress Clare Bronfman

A WHISKY heiress has pleaded guilty to funding a cult accused of fronting a massive sex trafficking operation.

Clare Bronfman, 40, who will inherit her billionaire father's Seagram liquor empire, could face up to 25 years in jail when she is sentenced on July 25 in Brooklyn, New York.

The heiress, whose mother is British, was accused of handing over more than a hundred million dollars – around £77million – to

From **Mike Parker** IN LOS ANGELES

alleged sex cult Nxivm (pronounced Nexium), which has also attracted several Hollywood stars.

Earlier this month Smallville actress Allison Mack pleaded guilty to related racketeering and racketeering conspiracy charges.

Ms Bronfman pleaded guilty late on Friday to conspiracy to conceal and harbour illegal immigrants for financial gain and to fraudulent

use of identification. "Truly remorseful" former showjumper Ms Bronfman, the fifth defendant in the case to admit guilt, said: "I wanted to do good in the world and help people. However, I have made mistakes."

Nxivm, which has boasted as many as 16,000 followers, has been accused of marking women members by branding them and forcing female devotees to submit to sex sessions with its alleged leader Keith Raniere, 58, who is

scheduled to stand trial next month. Dynasty star Catherine Oxenberg, 57, last year told how she feared for her life as she worked to expose the cult and rescue her daughter India and others from its clutches.

She said she experienced terrifying threats as she battled against Nxivm. But she said: "I discovered I'm the type of parent that would be willing to take a bullet for my child and I couldn't stop."

JENNIFER SELWAY

WARM, WITTY AND WISE

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We're baffled by our Brexit break

Picture: GETTY

■ LAST YEAR more than 200 learner drivers complained that they had been sexually harassed by their instructors. Understandably this has led to a call for driving lessons to be recorded by in-car cameras – a move that would protect both learner and instructor.

Not that it would have helped me much. My driving instructor wasn't a pervert but he was a chain-smoker. I could barely see him for the fumes that filled his Ford Fiesta. Perhaps my emergency stops and hill starts simply made him nervous.

What a sad state of affairs though. Pretty soon every interaction between two people in a private place will have to be filmed in case one of them feels they have a grievance. What has the world come to?

■ I'M NOT usually at the cutting edge of sporting activity. But I'm thrilled to find that I'm ahead of the curve re paddle boarding. More than 900,000 Britons are expected to have a go this year. It is well on the way to becoming more popular than surfing.

What is the appeal? Well if I can do it it must be easy-peasy. It's also slow and sedate and you can sit down if you get tired of standing, or start to wobble. If you fall into the water it doesn't matter – and unlike surfing, your board won't turn round and hit you on the head.

■ A 40-YEAR-OLD man in Michigan moved back in with Ma and Pa after his divorce. When he moved out again he found that his porn collection was missing. He blames his parents and is now suing them for thousands of dollars. If you were searching for a definition of a pathetic loser, I'd say this ticks all the boxes.

■ HAVE you noticed how people now use the word "behaviours" as opposed to "behaviour"? As in "these behaviours will not be tolerated", as some spokesperson for University College London said last week. It sets my teeth on edge.

■ MOST British women have £500-worth of unused clothes in their wardrobes, many of them outfits that are kept for "sentimental reasons". Only £500? I have far more than that though I don't know how you put a value on something you've owned for years and can't bear to get rid of.

Like my 35-year-old Harrods coat which is falling apart with use; the poison-green Harvey Nicks silk dress I wore at my wedding party with its never-to-be-fashionable again big shoulders; the killer-heeled Ferragamo shoes in red suede that are too painful to wear; the strange damson linen frock coat which will be perfect... one day. None of these will be going anywhere. They all stay in my wardrobe, the archaeology of my life in fabric and stitches.

DONALD TUSK, President of the European Council, warned the UK not to "waste time" once we'd got our latest Brexit extension. It was like Sir reminding the class about their essential reading list as everybody piled out for the Easter hols. Yeah right, whatever, said just about the entire nation including the allegedly exhausted (diddums) MPs.

Because suddenly, whoopee, we're on Brexit-break. School's out! Even the flag-swishers outside Parliament have gone back to their burrows.

With no Brexit to report on, the news this past week has been absolutely weird. I switched on the six o'clock bulletin to find the lead item was something about scientists reviving dead pigs' brains. Normally it's Anna Soubry being jolly cross.

At the start of the week Tiger Woods hogged the news by win-

'Tiger Woods was the main story'

ning the Masters. He wasn't the sports lead, he was the main story which is usually saved for meaningful votes. I don't give a fig about golf and was only vaguely interested in T. Woods in the days when his name was linked to Las Vegas bikini models and his inability to drive a car in a straight line (and latterly a golf ball).

But in a Brexit-free week his return to form was greeted with near-religious fervour. "More joy in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth" etc. Not that he hath repenteth as far as I know, but he seems to have got his groove back.

And yes it was better – actually anything is better – than hearing from that strange ERG creature Mark Francois, a Brexiteer who has plucked himself from obscurity and now appears on everything except The Archers.

Sadly, in this strange week, I didn't expect to see violence on the streets return to Northern Ireland with the death of Lyra McKee.

And the Notre-Dame fire in Paris was, of course, a terrible business but nobody died and it enabled nice people to come on the radio and say nice things about the valiant French firefight-



■ IT'S THAT time of the year again. It's Coachella, the rock festival in the Californian desert. The one that nobody you know ever goes to because it's exclusively for famous people going boho – such as Kylie Jenner, those haughty Hadid girls and Instagrammers Jill Wallace and Brittany Xavier, above. It's always the same: lovelies with tanned thighs in boots, cut-offs, sunglasses and a lot of thonging. Don't you hate them all?

ers. Balm to the soul after all the ghastly, divisive spite that has been the legacy of Brexit.

On another morning I turned on the Today programme bracing myself for Brexit only to hear a discussion about Phoebe Waller-Bridge (creator of edgy TV comedy Fleabag) being called in to rewrite the latest James Bond film.

This was greeted with more rejoicing. Has everyone gone mad? If I want news about the ins and outs of the entertainment

industry I turn to the venerable Variety magazine, not Today. Who cares who's writing James Bond? Though, of course, I also understand that Phoebe Waller-Bridge must henceforth write everything. Want to bring some quirky humour to your shopping list? Phoebe Waller-Bridge is your girl.

But, yes, all this (even reviving dead pigs' brains) is better than hearing from Dominic Grieve.

Anything is. For this relief much thanks and happy Easter.

■ THE FIRE in Dame Joan Collins's flat that left her badly shaken was caused by sun reflecting off a mirror in the bathroom. Luckily nobody was hurt.

A similar thing happened to a friend who came into her bedroom to find her curtains smouldering. A small hand mirror was to blame.

Another thing to add to your "did I leave the gas on?" list of worries.

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REVIEW

Edited by CHARLOTTE HEATHCOTE

Prue Leigh tells **Garry Bushell** how *Bake Off* is a piece of cake compared to writing novels

MY RECIPE FOR LITERARY SUCCESS...

INSIDE



Judi Dench steals the limelight as spy Joan

FILMS: 38



How to train your dragon queen

TV: 39



Snooker's John Virgo on beating gambling

INTERVIEW: 40

Review: BOOKS

I'M UNDER strict instructions from Prue Leith's publishers not to mention The Great British Bake Off. But in the event Prue brings up the hit Channel 4 show herself.

"The lovely thing about TV is you're not in charge," she tells me. "You just do what you're told. I walk on, do my bit and then while the bakers make themselves busy, I sit in a lovely green room, in a library with a real fire.

"It's a lot harder to write a novel..."

Prue's new book, *The Lost Son*, is the final part of her Angelotti Chronicles trilogy – a multi-generational love story set against the backdrop of a changing food industry.

"I'm never writing another trilogy as long as I live!" she says with feeling.

Why so?

"It gets so complicated. Even though I had planned all three books before I started book one and I knew where I wanted to go, I've still got to remember the details of what happened in the previous volumes. The logistics are really complex.

"And then if you set the story against real-life events, you have to make sure you get the dates and the facts right..."

The book acknowledges experts who advised her on everything from 9/11 to aristocratic inheritance rights. Prue also thanks Bake Off presenter Sandi Toksvig's wife Debbie, a psychotherapist, for reading and approving her portrayal of sapphic love. "Yes, there is a brief lesbian

relationship in the book. I wrote it because it felt right but I didn't know if that's how it happens so I thought I'd better make sure and asked Sandi's wife to check that it felt authentic."

Prue, 79, borrowed elements from the life of her husband, retired clothes designer John Playfair, 73, who allowed her to use his experience of post-war adoption and his search for his birth parents.

"My husband was born illegitimate in 1946," she says. "One third of births that year were illegitimate. Possibly as many as half. Many women slept with their boyfriends who were going off to war as they thought they might die."

The Food Of Love (since renamed *The House At Chorlton*) was the mouth-watering first course in Prue's Angelotti Chronicles, telling the story of Laura Oliver who shocks her snobbish father by falling in love with Giovanni, an Italian cook and former prisoner-of-war, and eloping to London where they build a successful Italian restaurant.

Book two, *The Prodigal Daughter*, saw their daughter Angelica defy Giovanni and move to Paris at the time of the 1968

student revolt. "I wanted the story to cover changes in food from the War on, from rationing, austerity and all that boring time, on to French and Italian food, the great explosion of world cuisine and on to street food.

"Angelica going to Paris coincides with my career. She's roughly the same age as I was and she becomes the first woman to be a pastry chef in The Savoy which paralleled with me being the first woman to have a Michelin-starred restaurant."

BOOK THREE tells the story of Tom, the first-born baby Laura was forced to give up. "He was adopted by cold, old-fashioned parents who never hugged him. He's become a successful businessman. He thinks he's fine but when he is hit by a devastating personal loss, he starts looking for his birth parents.

"So a lot of the book is about what happens to a family when something unexpected happens."

However, Laura hasn't been entirely honest about his parentage...

It's the glasses you notice first when you meet Prue Leith. The hand-painted

'Sandi Toksvig's wife ch



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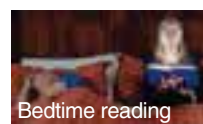
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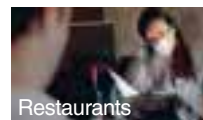
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Pictures: PK GETTY

checked the lesbian pages for me'



designer spectacles the Bake Off judge always wears are nearly as colourful as her own past (they're from Ronit Furst and if you want a pair, you'd best save up).

After opening her Michelin-starred restaurant in London's Notting Hill in 1969, she built a successful business and broadcasting career. Occasional TV bookings blossomed into an 11-year stint as a judge on BBC Two's Great British Menu. Her first book, Prue Leith's Cookery Bible, was published in 1991.

Cape Town-born Prue told her life story in her 2014 memoir *Relish: My Life On A Plate*. She left South Africa to study at the Sorbonne in Paris at 20 and at 21 started an affair with Rayne Kruger, the husband of her mother's best friend, whom she married 13 years later.

The couple had one son, Daniel, and adopted daughter La-Da, a Cambodian war orphan.

Kruger died in 2012. She married John in 2015 after a short but serious relationship with pianist Sir Ernest Hall. John was a near neighbour, divorced and by all accounts the perfect man, keeping her supplied with cups of tea and "doing

the shopping and washing up" so she could concentrate on writing in her Cotswolds home. She has lived there for 40 years. "Every time I drive through the gates, it's a relief and a joy," she says.

"I can only write in the morning because of a whole lot of other commitments. I work out how many words I need to write in a week to hit my deadline and then I work backwards.

"I am a slow writer but I've never hit a brick wall. I do about 3,400 words a week and towards the end as I approach the deadline, probably 6,000."

THE LOST Son is her ninth novel – and possibly her last. "I don't feel the desire to write another one at the moment, maybe I'll concentrate on blogging a bit more.

"I took a break from food writing in order to write novels. My agent thinks I should think about writing about food again. Cookery sells better than novels."

She adds with a grin: "I do find myself nicking the Bake Off recipes... I think writing is a disease though. If you've got it, you're stuck with it. People say, 'I'll write a

book when I retire!' I think, 'You won't.' So what does she do when it's time for a break from work? She loves to travel. "I block out a couple of weeks in January for a relaxing holiday, somewhere sunny with no culture because if there's a museum, John will be there. We've just been to Istanbul looking at mosques and museums."

John always makes her laugh, as does Sandi Toksvig. "Sandi is hilarious, she came to lunch yesterday."

On TV, she loved *The West Wing*, the original British House Of Cards, *The Thick Of It* and *Jed Mercurio's Bodyguard*. "Downton Abbey was perfect Sunday night viewing." I suggest the Angelotti Chronicles

would work on TV too. "I would dearly love there to be a TV adaptation," she says.

"A Sunday night drama with a lot of food and love stories. Perfect."

● *The Lost Son* by Prue Leith is out now (Quercus, £16.99)



HAPPY DAYS: From top, Prue in Bake Off; with husband John Playfair; with daughter La-Da and son Daniel and his wife Emma after receiving her CBE in 2010

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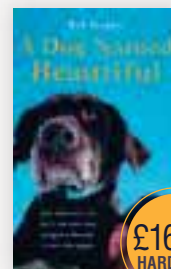
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A DOG NAMED BEAUTIFUL: THE TRUE STORY OF THE LABRADOR WHO TAUGHT A MARINE TO LOVE LIFE AGAIN

BY ROBERT KUGLER

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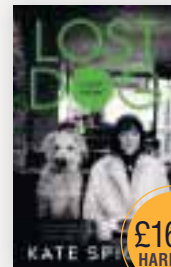
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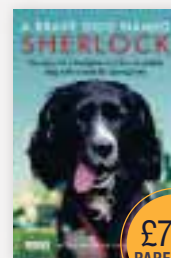
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Review: STAGE

THEATRE

By Michael
Arditti



WEST SIDE STORY ★★★★★

Royal Exchange, Manchester
(Tickets: 0161 833 9833/
royalexchange.co.uk; £26-£53)

THE THREE SISTERS ★★★★★

Almeida, London N1
(Tickets: 020 7359 4404/
almeida.co.uk; £10-£42.50)

NO LOVER of classic musicals ever objects to a revival of **West Side Story**. But in a year when teenage knife crime and turf wars have hit the headlines with horrifying regularity, this tale of gangland violence in 1950s New York is as pertinent as it is poignant.

Choreographer Jerome Robbins first conceived of transposing Shakespeare's *Romeo And Juliet* to New York, although it was originally to feature the conflict between Catholics and Jews and titled *East Side Story*. As librettist, he chose Arthur Laurents, who switched the setting to the Upper West Side where tensions festered between a new wave of Puerto Rican immigrants and the existing whites.

Composer Leonard Bernstein, who had previously celebrated the city in *On The Town* and *Wonderful Town*, was responsible for the passionate, pulsating score. The librettist was 25-year-old Stephen Sondheim making his Broadway debut, although he was later dismissive of his lyrics, asking what Puerto Rican girl would sing "I feel pretty and witty and bright".

Sarah Frankcom's revival offers a welcome opportunity to hear the glorious score (powerfully orchestrated by Jason Carr) in its dramatic context. But in other respects it disappoints. Anna Fleischle's abstract set looks more like the climbing frame in a children's playground than the tenements in an urban jungle. Aletta Collins's choreography pales



ON THE TOWN: Maria and Tony (Gabriela Garcia and Andy Coxon) are star-crossed lovers in *West Side Story*

beside the finger-snapping, hip-swirling swagger of Robbins's original.

Andy Coxon and Gabriela Garcia make a mellifluous and attractive pair of star-crossed lovers and they receive excellent support from Michael Duke and Jocasta Almgill as their friends Riff and Anita. Emily Langham's rendition of the heartrending ballad *Somewhere* is the evening's high spot.

Ultimately, however, the company fails to cohere. The accents may be authentically American but the acting is not. For all their temporary tattoos,

the men make unconvincing hoodlums. Steam rises from a subway grate but the production never catches fire.

REBECA Frecknall has taken a similar new broom to **The Three Sisters**, Chekhov's great play about siblings who live in the past and dream of the future. Unfortunately, her over-styled approach, marked by extravagant lighting effects and actors moving chairs more often than Pickfords, destroys not only Chekhov's charm but also his rhythms.

The production begins with a wordless scene in which the entire cast troops on stage for what is presumably (although it's never stated) the funeral of the sisters' father. Chekhov put it far more succinctly in Olga's opening line: "It's exactly a year ago since Father died." In Cordelia Lynn's colloquial translation "Father" becomes "Daddy", which jars – although not as much as "stage an intervention", "It's OK", and the inevitable four-letter words.

Frecknall and Lynn bring out the sisters' snobbery. Never have I been more aware of the younger pair's sense of entitlement but never have I been less moved by their fates.

It is left to Patsy Ferran, this year's Olivier-award-winner, to touch our hearts as Olga, resigned to spinsterhood, as well as Elliot Levey as a cuckolded schoolteacher and Annie Firbank as an overworked nanny.



SISTERS' UPDATE: Patsy Ferran as the heart-tugging Olga, left, with Pearl Chanda as Masha and Ria Zmitrowicz as Irina



WILD IN THE STREETS: Townsfolk riot in Die Meistersinger

Wagner's DIE MEISTERSINGER

★★★★★ Prokofiev's BETROTHAL IN A MONASTERY

Staatsoper FESTTAGE (Easter Festival), Unter den Linden, Berlin (Tickets: 00 49 30 20 35 45 55/staatsoper-berlin.de; €25-€275)

ON the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, Wagner's great comedy **Die Meistersinger** comes as a timely celebration of the human spirit over repression.

Daniel Barenboim's Berlin State Opera in its Easter Festival has revived director Andrea Moses's 2015 staging that transports medieval Nuremberg to present-day Berlin with Hans Sachs, the opera's poet-cobbler, as an old hippie and the town's youth as rebellious punks.

Wagner drew on the historical guilds of Nuremberg and its famous poet Sachs, adding romantic fiction in a singing competition where the prize is the hand in marriage of Eva, only daughter of goldsmith Veit Pogner (Matti Salminen). A proviso allows her to turn down the winner if she doesn't like him, but not to choose someone outside the town's Guild of Mastersingers.

As the opera opens, Eva falls in love with wandering knight Walther von Stolzing who arrives in town ignorant of the guilds or the strict competition rules.

Hans Sachs, widower and friend of Eva's father, has watched the child become a beautiful woman and is in love with her too. But the older man realises he must give way to youth and forgoes his own chance of winning the prize to teach Stolzing the art of poetry in the space of a few hours.

The loss, due to illness, of the tenor singing the role of Stolzing brought in top Wagnerian Klaus Florian Vogt on a flight from Salzburg where he had sung the role the previous evening. As it turned out, we were in for a treat as Vogt is both vocally and physically ideal as Stolzing with a splendid lion's mane of hair.

Baritone Wolfgang Koch, leading exponent of the role of Sachs, brought out the man's conflicted emotions. Martin Gantner is a hoot as odious town

OPERA

By Clare Colvin



clerk Sixtus Beckmesser, who has his eye equally on Eva and her fortune. Siyabonga Maqungu is warm and sympathetic as Sachs's put-upon apprentice David, and soprano Julia Kleiter delightful as the wayward Eva.

The riot instigated by Sachs on St John's Eve to stop the elopement of Eva with Walther that would have brought disgrace on her and heartbreak to her father, is even fiercer than usual as punks grapple with apprentices, revealing as the dust clears the nightwatchman lying unconscious on the ground.

The singing competition is staged with balloons in colours of the German flag against a backdrop of bucolic countryside, and the ending is left open as to whether the aristocratic knight can settle to a tradesman's life.

Music director Daniel Barenboim plays exquisitely throughout – the Orchestra is one of the finalists in the forthcoming International Opera Awards at Sadler's Wells on April 29.

MAESTRO Barenboim, energetic as ever at 76, conducted the main events during a week that included Prokofiev's **Betrothal In A Monastery**, not seen in Berlin since 1958.

Based on Richard Brinsley Sheridan's *The Duenna*, the plot involves two young women and their chaperone taking refuge in a monastery to escape either angry fathers or unwanted suitors in a farcical hide and seek. Russian director Dmitri Tcherniakov complicates things further by recasting the characters as study group Opera Addicts Anonymous, engaged in a critique of the opera.

Despite the reworking, the music, from the Second World War, exerts a special charm. The cast enter into the spirit of fun and there are fine performances from Aida Garifullina and Anna Goryachova as Luisa and Clara, while Violeta Urmana is a formidable Duenna.

DANCE

By Jeffery Taylor



VESSEL ★★★★★

Damien Jalet & Kohei Nawa
Sadler's Wells Theatre, London EC1 (one night only)

THE STAGE looks invitingly empty. A shallow pool of water covers the area with what appears to be an ice floe almost centre stage. Dancers crouch, bent double, looking so contorted that they appear otherworldly.

One person supports a piggy-backed passenger as they all lean towards the floor with wrists crossed at the back of their heads. The dancers' upside-down eyes are firmly locked on to the backcloth, if they open at all.

Welcome to Vessel, a bold new work by Belgian choreographer Jalet and Japanese experimental sculptor Nawa, inspired by the human body consisting of 60 per cent water.

Seven near-naked dancers



MISERY: The outrageous Vessel is running on empty

attempt to blur the lines between humanity and our environment. For an hour, they perform ritualistic movements to an original electronic score.

The bow-legged dancers at the bottom of the pile juggle their burdens almost like berserk Charlie Chaplins. The blaring music by Marihiko Hara and Ryuichi Sakamoto sounds like a couple of tons of unwanted scrap being dumped in the street. I feel light years away from whatever Jalet and Nawa are trying to tell me. The programme claims Vessel

“transcends the genre of performing art”. I hope the author of that remark has been able to see the show by now.

Jalet has suggested the crouching dancers are incomplete people who have woken up in the underworld. But that is not apparent to the audience. Instead the mindless guzzling of these insect-like yet formless shapes is distasteful.

Finally, emerging from a heap of clinging bodies, a man takes up the white slime he has discovered in the ice and slowly spreads it down his face and across his body.

At last a discovery, I thought, a reason for the evening after all. I waited in a rather desperate state of anticipation – hope even – until he appeared in beige swimming trunks with more cream to spread on his bare skin.

Finally, the evening's secret was about to be revealed!

No such luck. Far from jumping for joy, he sinks on to the floor and into the snow, then he slowly collapses to the right, and dies. End of story.

I haven't felt so cheated since the ice cream van in our street ran out of chocolate flakes for our cornets.

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Review: CINEMA

Judi Dench steals the day as a Granny spy

FILM

By Andy Lea

RED JOAN ★★★☆

(Cert 12A, 101mins)

Director: Trevor Nunn**Stars:** Judi Dench, Sophie Cookson, Tom Hughes, Stephen Campbell Moore

GRETA ★★★☆

(Cert 15, 99mins)

Director: Neil Jordan**Stars:** Chloë Grace Moretz, Isabelle Huppert

DRAINED ACROSS CONCRETE

★★★★☆

(Cert 15, 159mins)

Director: S Craig Zahler**Stars:** Mel Gibson, Vince Vaughn, Don Johnson, Tory Kittles

IT TOOK Judi Dench just eight minutes of screen time to steal Shakespeare In Love with her Oscar-winning turn as Elizabeth I. She pulls off the same trick in Trevor Nunn's **Red Joan**, a time-jumping drama loosely based on the eventful life of Melita Norwood who was dubbed the "Granny spy" when she was exposed as a Soviet spook in 1999.

Dame Judi is so brilliant in her all-too-brief scenes as octogenarian Joan that my heart went out to the young actress tasked with playing her during her student years. Sophie Cookson may go on to have a long career but this was like seeing Lionel Messi run rings around Manchester United's Phil Jones.

The film begins in the early 2000s with Dench's retired librarian arrested on the doorstep of her suburban home. The seemingly bewildered old dear is hauled into a police station, accused of breaching the Official Secrets Act and questioned over her days as a Cambridge student.

"Things were different then," she replies with a condescending smile as she recalls the idealistic student politics of the 1930s. But that warm grin begins to shift into something approaching a smirk as she remembers meeting her Marxist lover Leo (Tom Hughes). This is consummate big-screen acting that conveys a character's inner life with the slightest of gestures.

Sadly, nuance is in short supply when the film turns into the kind of stolid costume drama usually served on Sunday afternoon TV.

The extended flashbacks begin in 1938 with wholesome physics student Joan (Cookson) befriended by hammy German aristocrat Sonya (Tereza Srbova).

Joan helps her sneak into her Cambridge college after a boozy night



SECRET STYLE: Dame Judi Dench is brilliant in *Red Joan*. Below, Vince Vaughn and Mel Gibson shock as violent detectives in *Draigned Across Concrete*

out and in return Sonya decides to bring her out of her shell by inviting her to soirées organised by the university's Communist Party. At a packed screening of Sergei Eisenstein's *Battleship Potemkin* (different times indeed), Joan meets Sonya's heavily-accented cousin Leo (Tom Hughes) and is immediately smitten.

When war breaks out, Commie Leo heads to Canada to escape the attentions of the Home Office but keeps popping up in unexpected places after Joan lands a job on a top-secret research project led by the avuncular professor Max Davis (Stephen Campbell Moore).

Davis is a decent old stick who is developing the world's first WMD. He falls for Joan's razor-sharp mind and a love triangle develops.

This is all news to Joan's incredulous barrister son Nick (Ben Miles) who has joined her in the police station interview room. "I always thought you were overqualified to be a librarian," he says. By now Dench's smile is beginning to look a little strained. The mystery deepens as we learn young Joan is guided by a British sense of fair play rather than a thirst for global revolution.

Is Dench's old lady a patriot or a traitor? The mystery just about keeps the drama ticking over. One thing isn't up for debate – Dame Judi Dench is an incorrigible stealer of scenes.

Isabelle Huppert plays another older woman with a dark side in **Greta**, a pulpy stalker thriller directed by Neil Jordan.

The veteran French actress seems to be having the time of her life as a lonely retired piano teacher who wheedles her way into the big heart of Frances

(Chloë Grace Moretz), a young waitress who has recently moved to New York.

The plot twists when Frances ditches the elderly Greta after twigging she's a full-on psycho.

Soon the French lady is popping up everywhere. She seems to know where Erica will be before she does and she can cross the city in seconds then seemingly disappear into thin air.

Jordan shot to fame with *The Crying Game* in the early 90s when stalker movies were all the rage. But the best examples of this genre (*Fatal Attraction* and *Cape Fear*) succeeded by drawing us in. The boundaries of socially acceptable behaviour were gradually blurred until we started to wonder whether this could happen to us. This story could only convince in a comic book.

MEL GIBSON is making a comeback after an outburst of anti-Semitism nearly ended his career. Casting him as a modern-day Dirty Harry is just one of the many provocations in sprawling cop drama **Draigned Across Concrete**.

There is also some shockingly racist dialogue, simmering female characters and enough stomach-churning violence to close the popcorn counter.

The point of it all remains frustratingly elusive. Are these the views of writer-director S Craig Zahler or his characters? The glacial pace and bladder-testing length give us plenty of time to mull this over.

Gibson's Detective Brett Ridgeman and partner Tony Lurasetti (Vince Vaughn) are suspended after footage of them violently interrogating and abusing a Hispanic drug dealer is sent to a news channel.

Both men need money so when Brett gets a tip about a heist, they decide to rob the robbers. The heist is unpredictable, tense, and staged with considerable style. But only those with strong stomachs and high tolerance for over-written dialogue will think it's worth the wait.



Review: TV



Richard Coles

THE REVEREND, former star of 80s pop duo the Communards, is a Church of England priest. His many TV appearances include Strictly Come Dancing and Celebrity Masterchef

What was your first TV memory?

The Moon landing in 1969. I was seven. My dad got me and my brother up out of bed in the early hours and we came downstairs in our pyjamas to watch it. I have a memory of looking up at the Moon and thinking, "Wow, that's happening now."

Who was your first TV crush?

James T Kirk – Captain Kirk of Star Trek. I think it was the way he ran the USS Enterprise. He had an air of calm authority and I liked the way he handled his communicator.

What was your first TV appearance?

It's A Knockout! When the BBC filmed an episode at Northampton racecourse, near where we lived, in 1972, we all went along to watch it and stood and waved at the camera. When it went out, you could clearly see me waving like an idiot!

What is your favourite current show?

I love Fleabag. Phoebe Waller-Bridge is brilliant and makes it look so easy. The new series has also done an awful lot for public perception of the clergy. Andrew Scott is a beguiling priest.

Which TV show would you take to a desert island?

The Sopranos. I've watched it three times and I could watch it every year. I love the richness of the drama. It's like Wagner with gangsters worrying about their mum. Livia coming down the stairs like a Greek goddess... it's wonderful.

What TV show would you like to put out of its misery?

The weather forecast. I have two friends who are weather presenters but there is just too much of it on television.

Guiltiest TV pleasure?

Top Gear. I secretly love it but I'm embarrassed to admit it. The other one is Real Housewives of anywhere. I met one of The Real Housewives Of Beverly Hills and she was so odd, it was like meeting someone from The Wizard Of Oz.

What are you up to?

I've been campaigning for World Parkinson's Day as my father developed the disease.

GARRY BUSHELL

● Richard backs Parkinson UK's new Parkinson's Is awareness campaign, which highlights the often-brutal reality of living with the condition. Find out more at parkinsons.org.uk/parkinsons-is



Game for a laugh as the thrones crumble

TELEVISION

By Garry Bushell



WHAT do dragons eat anyway? asked Sansa on **Game Of Thrones** (Sky Atlantic, Monday). "Whatever they want," replied dragon queen Daenerys.

The greatest show on TV is back – hurrah! – and now it's got gags as well as warring families, illicit love affairs and levels of backstabbing that make the House of Commons seem like a Care Bear convention.

There are times when this phenomenal HBO series seems more like a medieval Jeremy Kyle Show than an X-rated Tolkien.

Malignant Queen Cersei Lannister has given mercenary Bronn crates of gold in return for a promise to execute her brothers – lecherous dwarf Tyrion and Jaime, her twin by whom she's pregnant – should they survive the coming war.

Meanwhile noble hero Jon Snow is actually Aegon Targaryen which means he's sleeping with his aunt... and that he, not "Mother of Dragons" Daenerys, is the rightful heir to the Iron Throne.

Confused? You should be. Game Of Thrones with its complex plots is the dramatic equivalent of the multi-level chess they used to play on Star Trek. But after eight glorious years, the wonderfully crafted characters are moving inexorably towards the endgame.

Or as Bran Stark told Daenerys: "The Night King has your dragon, the Wall has fallen, and the dead march south..."

The human families of George RR Martin's seven kingdoms have been competing to rule Westeros since 2011. Their bloody rivalries, heavily inspired by British history and Arthurian legend, now pale into insignificance as the ruthless Night King leads his legions of undead White Walkers south.

You'd need to watch it from scratch to fully appreciate the complexities. But the main surviving players are:

Daenerys, liberator of slaves and defier of tyrants – but also brutal and increasingly arrogant. Her army includes two surviving dragons, her unsullied eunuch soldiers, nomadic Dothraki warriors and Tyrion.

Brave Jon Snow, the King in the North until he bent the knees to Daenerys.

The surviving Starks, including Bran (all-seeing mystic), Sansa (icy but smart) and Arya (small but perfectly deadly).

And Cersei who is completely untrustworthy but reliant on the randy and brutal Euron Greyjoy who's like an evil version of Toast of London.

Jerome Flynn's Bronn is having the time of his life frolicking with feisty harlots. It's his former pop partner Robson Green I feel sorry for. All he gets are fishing shows. It's enough to make a man question his career choices. Although in both cases they never know what they'll catch.

Who should win Game Of Thrones? The Starks and Jon Snow. Who shouldn't win? Cersei or the Night King. Who will win? No idea. Much like Line Of Duty, in this show no one is safe.

Small joys of episode one include Jon's



FAMILY AFFAIR: Jon Snow (Kit Harington) and Daenerys (Emilia Clarke), his aunt. Inset: Kiell Smith-Bynoe and Charlotte Richie try to scare up a laugh in Ghosts

first dragon ride: "You've ruined horses for me!" And Tyrion telling Varys the eunuch: "You should consider yourself lucky, at least your b***s won't freeze off."

Game Of Thrones reminds us that we are living in a new golden age of television which began with The Sopranos and continues to deliver. And if you're looking for fresh box sets, excellent recent additions include Goliath (Amazon Prime), Fauda and Dirty John (both on Netflix).

DID ANYONE else spot any outraged spirits fuming in the background on **Ghosts** (BBC One, Monday)?

Specifically Bob Black, creator of Rentaghost, Richard Carpenter, writer of The Ghosts Of Motley Hall, and Viv Stanshall who dreamt up trouserless spook Humbert in Sir Henry At Rawlinson End. The alleged sitcom is very much Rentaghost with the jokes exorcised. Only the odd bad taste remark justifies its exclusion from children's TV.

Stony-broke ex-midwife Charlotte inherited crumbling country pile Button Hall from a distant aunt. She nearly died when the ghost of a trouser-free MP shoved her out of a first-floor window. When she came round, she could see dead people.

It's a good if familiar set up (think Beetlejuice) with a terrific cast playing a mixed crew of petty-minded phantoms determined to scare Charlotte and her husband away before they turn the place into a hotel. It's just a shame that once

again the Beeb have forgotten to make it funny. Maybe next time augment Rentaghost with Renta-Joke.

What is the point of Frankie Boyle's **New World Order** (BBC Two, Thursday)? It's supposed to be a "satirical discussion show" but is actually a bog-standard bombardment of right-on opinions briefly bookended with opening and closing jokes (11 writers, no laughs). It's tired, lame, and about as radical as Peppa Pig;

less new world order, more old school ordure. The guests sing from the same hymn sheet.

And Boyle, who always sold himself as a fearless taboo-buster, is happy to toe the BBC line. What a sell-out.

Do you ever worry that Jed Mercurio, writer of **Line Of Duty** (BBC One, Sunday), might be substituting the brains and subtlety of previous series for quick fixes of high-adrenaline action this time around?

The only thing giving me hope is that Jed is surely too smart to have Ted Hastings turn out to be "H", the sinister top cop up to his neck in organised villainy. (How could a man so bad with money be a criminal mastermind?) I'm also warming to the theory that gangster Lisa McQueen may be undercover herself.

Meanwhile, the Easter TV schedules in full: Not Particularly Good Friday, Highly Predictable Saturday, Extremely Lazy Sunday and No One Gives A Monkey's Monday. Well done, everyone.

● David Stephenson is away



Review: BOOKS

'Gambling cost me everything... then Big Break saved me'

JOHN VIRGO and a betting slip are never far apart. Passion for the sport of kings courses through the veins of this much-loved snooker legend and Big Break presenter.

"I was raised in a gambling culture," the affable star explains. "My father drove a crane at the docks and sent me to put on his bets on the way to school."

"We didn't have betting shops then, I had to go down an alley to a little shed and knock on the door. I never saw the bookie's face – a hand would come out and take the bet and the money. You didn't get a receipt."

John, 73, grew up in a terraced house in the backstreets of Salford "just like Coronation Street. In those days, people would come round where you worked taking bets. Even in hospital wards".

Before his TV career took off, John gambled and lost thousands – as recounted in his autobiography *Say Goodnight, JV*. But he defends betting in moderation.

"For working-class people, a win can change your day," he says. "If my dad got three doubles and a treble up on a Saturday, we'd go out and go to the pictures. As long as you bet within your means, it can bring a lot of joy."

His biggest win was £11,000 with that exact wager at Newmarket. "I wouldn't bet like that any more," he says.

Virgo rose to fame after beating Terry Griffiths in the 27th frame of the 1979 UK Snooker Championship, earning him £4,500 in prize money – a fortune to John who had earned £3.50 a week as a teenage invoice clerk for a structural steel company in Manchester.

Even as a teenager, snooker was never a social game for him. "It was always for money," he says. "I've come out of work on a Friday and lost my wages betting before I got home. Explain that to your mother. So I'd go to the snooker club and play with no money in my pocket and eke out a few quid."

But as John's wins increased, so did his wagers. He realised his gambling was getting out of control on the day he earned £1,000 for an exhibition and lost £1,200 on unwise bets on the way there.

"I became addicted to gambling," John admits. "I borrowed £200,000 against my property, thinking, 'There's a tournament around the corner. If I can win that then I can pay it back'. It ends up a vicious circle."

John started TV commentating in 1985 which meant he had even more money to

John Virgo was a star of snooker but managed to lose a fortune. He tells **Garry Bushell** how he turned his life around



POT LUCK: John today and, inset, with Jim Davidson in *Big Break*. The show ran for 11 years

bet with. His biggest extravagance was spending £6,000 on a racehorse called Jokist. But Black Wednesday in 1992 and soaring interest rates coincided with a break-up with his second wife.

"It was a bad time. Everything collapsed. The house had to go back." He knew it was time to get the gambling under control. TV show *Big Break* saved his bacon.

John's gift for mimicry had got him noticed. "I became known for imitating other players and when we had a televised exhibition match at Hayling

Island that finished early, the bloke running the tournament asked me to go on and do impressions.

"That's why *Big Break* happened.

It was life changing. It proved how popular snooker was. It was a godsend for me because you can't survive being a snooker pundit and it proved cocky comic Jim Davidson could entertain a family audience."

BBC One originally commissioned eight editions of the snooker gameshow hosted by Davidson. It ran for 11 years – "or in Jim's case two wives". It made John a staple of Saturday night television with his trick shots and impersonations. At its peak it pulled in 14 million viewers.

"On the first show, the director asked, 'Is everything all right John? You don't look too happy'."

"I said, 'I always look like this!' And we realised that was part of the chemistry – the dour Northern socialist and the cheeky Cockney Tory.

"Early on, Jim went off script and asked me, 'Did you have Lent in Salford?' I replied, 'No, you'd never have got it back'. Then he knew he could throw something at me and I wouldn't freeze."

WORKING with Jim was a joy, he says. "We had a technical problem once and he did a five-minute impersonation of a Dad's Army scene. Every character was spot on and he didn't miss a line. At the end, he got a standing ovation."

John's work now includes commentary work, after-dinner speaking, Snooker Legends tours and the odd cruise. People still greet him with cheery cries of "Where's the cue ball going?" He never minds. "The public pay your wages, and I like mixing with people. You just learn to avoid nuisances."

Virgo has been happily married to Rosie, 60, since 2009. He has a son, Gary, 48, and a daughter, Brook-Leah, 33, from his two previous marriages. You could fit John's childhood home in Lancashire into his current one in Cobham, Surrey, five times over.

As we finish chatting, he puts the racing on his big-screen living room TV. "I still love horse racing," he says. "I like a little flutter but only on horses. You have to think, with betting, are you doing it for the enjoyment or because you want the money?"

"With me it's the enjoyment and I like to have an opinion proved correct and to beat the bookies. You can't win with fixed-odds betting machines.

"I've had a million systems over the years. You think you've got it beat but the only certainty in racing is just after they've won."

● *Say Goodnight, JV: My Autobiography by John Virgo is out now in paperback (John Blake, £8.99)*

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'Our chemistry was Northern socialist and cheeky Cockney Tory'

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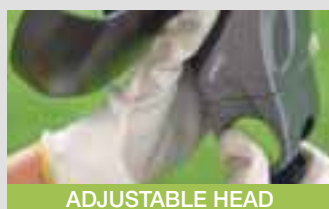
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FINANCIAL

SUNDAY  EXPRESS

EDITED BY GEOFF HO

Craft brewer ready to take its pulling power to Berlin

BREWDOG, the fast-growing Scottish craft beer group, is to invest up to £10million in building a brewery in Berlin as part of its European expansion plans.

Chief executive and co-founder James Watt said that it hopes to have the site operational and open to the public by September 7, in time for its annual meeting of investors. The brewery, a 2,500 square metre taproom and a 5,000 square metre beer garden, will be in the Berlin district of Mariendorf.

Watt said that the brewery in Germany would provide a "bit of a hedge against Brexit" and ensure supplies to its top overseas markets France, Italy, Germany and Spain could continue uninterrupted, should Britain crash out of the European Union without a deal.

The UK was supposed to have left the EU on March 29 but this has been put back to October 31, as MPs and the Government have so far failed to come up with a Brexit plan that can command enough support.

BrewDog is in the middle of a £7million crowdfunding round to help it finance growth plans, which will see it open more pubs in Europe and build a hotel in London. It is close to sealing a joint venture in Shanghai, China.



ALE AND HEARTY: BrewDog's co-founders Martin Dickie and James Watt, left

Brexit standoff a gift for small businesses

By Geoff Ho

EIGHTY per cent of small businesses were not prepared for Brexit and need to take advantage of the delay to get their act together, trade experts warn.

Consultant Ready For Brexit, which is run by former UK trade negotiators, said that the majority of small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) would have been at risk of disruption, had the UK left the European Union on March 29 as originally scheduled.

"SMEs were not ready for Brexit. Now that we have an extension they can stop panicking and start preparing," said Ready for Brexit chairman Paul Hodges.

"They can't waste the extension and can't afford to be complacent, as no deal remains the default position and businesses need to know how Brexit will affect them."

PwC head of Brexit Andrew Gray said: "Any extra time to plan for Brexit is a gift. As the European Council president Donald Tusk suggested, don't waste it."

Companies were unprepared for life outside EU

Among the key issues that SMEs failed to address prior to March 29 is having to comply with European and UK customs, regulatory requirements and tariffs as an outsider.

British businesses have not needed to fulfil customs declarations for EU trade for 25 years and doing so could cost them £13 billion a year according to HM Revenue & Customs estimates.

Hodges said that SMEs need to work out where the weak links are in their supply chains and the impact that delays at ports could have on their cashflow.

They will also need to work out how Brexit will affect their contracts and sales

and purchase agreements. For example, will they be able to pass on the cost of tariffs, currency movements or customs delays to clients?

Small businesses will also deal with how the status of their UK-based EU workers may change and what their British staff on the Continent will need to do.

They will also have to check if the professional qualifications of their EU staff are still valid after Brexit.

The Federation of Small Business said that with unemployment at near record low levels and EU migration falling, firms are finding it harder and harder to recruit the right staff.

Chairman Mike Cherry said: "One in five small UK employers rely on staff from the EU."

"The sharp drop in European arrivals is a real concern for many smaller firms, particularly those in sectors such as construction, care and engineering where the contribution of EU team members is so vital."

ETZ goes head to head with payday lenders

SOFTWARE group ETZ is setting up a finance arm which will advance cash to recruitment agency and gig economy workers to help prevent them from resorting to payday lenders.

Chief executive Nick Henderson said it is raising £10 million from institutional investors to finance its plan and that it is seeking authorisation from City regulators.

Agencies will be able to tap ETZ's finance arm for funds, which they can use to pay their workers on the same day that they file their timesheets. Companies pay back ETZ when their clients pay them.

Henderson said that late payment from agencies is one of the main reasons why people fall into the hands of payday lenders.

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COMMENT

GEOFF HO

THE Financial Conduct Authority celebrated its sixth birthday earlier this month, but its days may be numbered unless it learns the lessons of the London Capital & Finance scandal.

FCA chief executive Andrew Bailey last week defended its handling of LCF, the bust investment group.

After years of warnings about LCF, the City regulator finally acted in December, when it froze its bank accounts

and ordered it to withdraw misleading marketing.

However by then, the damage had been done. LCF used its FCA-licensed status to get 11,500 elderly savers to part with £237million by promising returns of up to 8 per cent a year by putting their money in unregulated mini-bonds. Those savers will be lucky if they get more than 20 per cent of their cash back.

It is mind-boggling that an FCA-licensed firm was able

to sell unregulated investments to the public. This cannot continue, as it undermines trust and confidence in the financial system. Savers and investors rightly assume that if a firm is FCA-licensed it must be safe to trust them with their money.

The FCA came into being as its predecessor, the Financial Services Authority, was judged to be failing. Unless it learns the lessons of LCF, it may find itself judged similarly.

● geoff.ho@express.co.uk

EXPRESS MONEY

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Boeing feels pressure of 737 scrutiny

BOEING is going to experience cash flow pressures if its 737 Max aircraft is grounded for more than four months, according to global credit ratings agency Moody's.

The warning comes ahead of Boeing's first quarter results on Wednesday, where it is expected to update the market on how much financial damage the 737 Max's problems are likely to inflict upon it. Analysts expect net profits to dive 16.3 per cent to \$2.1 billion (£1.6 billion).

The 737 Max was grounded worldwide after planes operated by Ethiopian Airlines and Lion Air of Indonesia crashed. Boeing is working on new software for the plane's automated anti-stalling system, which has come under scrutiny since the crashes.

Boeing has slowed production of the 737 Max in order to divert resources to getting it back in the air. Once it has fixed the 737's systems, regulators from the US, China,

By **Geoff Ho**

Europe, Canada and other nations will still have to be satisfied that it is fit to return to service.

In a note to investors, Moody's senior vice president Jonathan Root and managing director of corporate finance Robert Jankowitz warned that there could be a long delay in getting those approvals, which would put strain on Boeing's finances.

"We believe that slowing the rate [of production] will not meaningfully reduce working capital demands while deliveries are suspended," they wrote.

"Boeing has said that employment levels for the program and production will be maintained. We have no visibility on how pre-delivery payment schedules have been affected since the grounding was implemented, but these payments have likely slowed. Cash flow pressure will mount if the grounding extends beyond four months."

Great strides towards US market

SOLE Bliss, the British online brand specialising in stylish shoes for women with bunions, is stepping up its expansion with plans to open a base in the US, writes Maisha Frost.

Fashion accessories expert Lisa Kay founded the company two years ago, with the mission of liberating women from the bind of searing pain and dowdy designs.

Hereditary factors and childbirth are the main causes of bunions and there are 10 million people, mostly women, with the condition in the UK. Famous names spotted in a pair include Dame Helen Mirren and the Duchess of Cornwall.

Its latest expanded range features wedges, sandals and flats.



STYLE AND COMFORT: Sole Bliss's Kay

Barclays ups its Bramson push

BARCLAYS will step up its efforts to repel activist investor Ed Bramson on Thursday, when it is expected to unveil a £1.5 billion first quarter pre-tax profit.

Chief executive Jes Staley is expected to hail the bank's performance, despite the subdued market conditions affecting its investment banking division.

Last year it posted a £236 million loss for the quarter, due to increased PPI compensation costs and the settling of its sub-prime toxic mortgage bonds mis-selling case in

the US. Barclays is under siege from Bramson, who wants to be elected to the board at its AGM on May 2, with the ultimate aim of getting it to shrink its investment bank.

Staley has been trying to improve returns from the division since he joined in December 2015 and last month took personal charge of it.

The following day, Royal Bank of Scotland chief executive Ross McEwan will unveil its first quarter results. He is tipped to say that the bank is making good progress in putting its troubles behind it.

By **Harvey Jones**
PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

AS FAMILIES gather to celebrate Easter Sunday, many will find themselves in far closer proximity to each other than they would like, due to the unstoppable rise of multi-generational living.

More than five million households now have different generations living under the same roof to form one big, happy family unit, or maybe not so happy.

The main reasons are cash-strapped millennials moving back in with their parents and the ageing population, as many need help in later life.

While this cuts household costs, including mortgages, it is underpinned by growing frustration, as younger people struggle to get on in life and buy a place of their own.

OUR HOUSE

Three in 10 homeowners continue to live with adult family members, according to Barclays, while almost one in four has converted living space into additional bedrooms to meet demand in the last two years alone.

The problem is most acute in London, where 35 per cent now live in a multi-generational home.

Some 2.4 million aged between 20 and 34 live with their parents, a rise of a fifth in just over two decades.

Barclays head of mortgages Hannah Bernard said families are adding bedrooms, building outhouses or granny flats and installing ground floor bedrooms and step-free access for older family members: "These changes are increasingly important as more homeowners expect to be taking care of their elderly parents in their home."

LIFE TERM

As well as multi-generational living, Britain is seeing the rise of the multi-generational mortgage.

Half of all home buyers would now consider taking out a 40-year mortgage rather than the traditional 25-year term, according to separate research from Santander.

A longer term can help them to shrink monthly repayments, meet strict affordability criteria and get onto the property ladder sooner.

Santander recently extended its mortgage terms to up to 40 years and managing director of mortgages Miguel Sard said this can help people break the costly rental cycle and get on the property ladder: "A longer-term mortgage can give them more manageable monthly repayments."

Buying still makes financial sense as the average homeowner could save £178,500 over 40 years compared to remaining a tenant, Santander figures suggest.

One in four do not realise that a longer mortgage term significantly reduces their monthly interest payments, but unfortunately there is a catch.

Someone taking out a £200,000 capital repayment mortgage over 25 years at 3.5 per cent would pay £1,002 a month, with interest payments totalling £100,477 over that time.

If they spread it over a 40-year term

Cash-strapped millennials keep it in the family



they would initially pay just £775 a month, or £227 less. However, if they ran that debt for 40 years, their interest payments would total a whopping £172,077, or £71,600 more.

Sard said you can get round this by later reducing your mortgage term or making overpayments when you have more money later.

LIFETIME MORTGAGE

Darren Cook, finance expert at MoneyFacts.co.uk, said the move to 40-year mortgage terms is happening at the same time as lenders are extending the maximum age to which you can borrow.

Until recently most mortgages only ran to 65 or 70 but now seven out of 10 can stretch to 75 and beyond.

The drawback with extending your mortgage term in this way is that you will have to service the interest and capital repayments when you have stopped working.

You will also need to prove to your lender that you have sufficient income to keep up with your monthly repayments. Many will struggle to do this, especially if they are in ill-health and can no longer work.

Another danger is that you never clear your mortgage and end up passing it on to your children.

HAND UP

Stephen Ludlow, chairman of London estate agent LudlowThompson, said older family members are helping the younger generation in other ways: "Notably through the new type of mortgage products aimed at those looking to buy a property using the Bank of Mum and Dad."

These include the Lloyds Lend A Hand Mortgage, where buyers use their parents' savings in place of a deposit, Helping Hand from Vida Homeloans, where buyers use parental income in affordability assessments and Barclays Family Springboard, where a family member sets aside 10 per cent of the purchase price in a savings account for three years.

It is worrying that people are borrowing for longer and later when mortgage rates are at a record average low of just 2.6 per cent.

Many could find their mortgage even harder to repay when rates finally start rising again.

The country's housing crisis is at the heart of this, forcing millions to become unwilling participants in the multi-generation game.

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Premiums with a steer

FIVE-MINUTE GUIDE TO...

USAGE-BASED MOTOR INSURANCE

By **Harvey Jones**

MOTOR insurance is changing gear, as a new breed of insurers aim to give drivers personalised cover based on their driving habits and when they use their cars.

This has been driven by telematics or “black box” policies, which help young drivers to cut their premiums by showing they are responsible on the road.

Insurers such as Admiral's Littlebox, Carrot, Coverbox, Insurethebox and Marmalade offer telematics, while mobile phone apps such as Aviva Drive and Direct Line's DrivePlus can also monitor how you drive.

They measure your speed, braking, cornering and mileage when you drive and reward safer behaviour with lower premiums at renewal.

The concept is expanding into other areas, such as “pay per mile” cover for low mileage drivers. Could this type of innovation cut your premiums?

ON THE TELE

Telematics offers the biggest savings for newly qualified drivers, who face average first-year premiums of £1,964, figures from GoCompare.com show.

Telematics has saved thousand of lives, with the number of 17 to 19-year-olds



HIGH-TECH: We're getting up to speed

dying in road collisions down a third over six years, according to LexisNexis Risk Solutions.

Global telematics director Graham Gordon said eight out of 10 young drivers now opt for telematics: “The sharp improvement in casualty statistics shows how effective it is.”

Gordon said older drivers typically use their car less often, drive at quieter, safer times and take fewer risks: “Telematics could therefore be ideal for them.”

OUT THE BOX

Seven out of 10 over-65s have no worries about using the technology to calculate premiums and say telematics could prove their innocence in a speeding case or collision. Telematics can also help with

stolen vehicle recovery or instantly alert your insurer if you have a crash, invaluable if travelling alone or in a remote area.

It can also help elderly drivers work out when it is finally the right time to stop driving, say, if reaction speeds are deteriorating, Gordon added.

MILES BETTER

James Blackham, chief executive of pay-per-mile insurer By Miles, said telematics should not just be for young drivers: “It can make insurance fairer and more flexible for all.”

However, he said older drivers with decades of experience may be reluctant to be told how and when they should be driving.

Blackham said a long-standing problem with car insurance is that you are paying for something you may only use for a few hours a week. By Miles charges from £150 a year fully comprehensive for parking, then from 3p per mile you drive. “Someone driving 4,000 miles a year could pay as little as £270 a year, depending on their driving history and car's make and model,” Blackham added.

I SPY

Victoria Newman, spokeswoman at insurer Admiral, said eight out of 10 Littlebox customers see premiums fall at renewal, but only around 1 per cent of its customers are over 65.

One thing holding back older motorists is that they are safer and already pay lower premiums, so have less financial incentive to try telematics.

BANKING AND BORROWING

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Current Accounts

In-Credit Interest

Provider	Account	% AER	Online	Branch	Telephone	Post
Nationwide	Flex Direct Account (Standard)	5.0% variable	•	•	•	•
Bank of Scotland	Classic Account with Vantage (Standard)	1.5% variable	•	•	•	•
Lloyds Bank	Club Lloyds (Standard)	1.5% variable	•	•	•	•
Santander	123 Account*	1.5% variable	•	•	•	•
Tesco Bank	Current Account (Standard)	1.0% variable	•	•		

*annual fee applies

Switching Incentive

Provider	Account	Incentive	Online	Branch	Telephone	Post
NatWest	Reward Account (Standard)*	£175	•	•	•	•
HSBC	Advance Account (Standard)	£150	•	•	•	•
First Direct	1st Account (Standard)	£100	•	•	•	•
HSBC	Current Account (Standard)	£75	•	•	•	•
Halifax	Reward Current Account (Standard)	£50	•	•	•	•
M&S	Current Account (Standard)	Vouchers	•	•	•	•

*annual fee applies

Loans

Based on £10,000 over five years

Provider	Product	Rep APR	Total amount payable	Monthly repayment
Admiral	Personal Loan	2.9%	£10,744.20	£179.07
M&S Bank	Personal Loan	2.9%	£10,744.20	£179.07
Sainsbury's Bank	Personal Loan	2.9%	£10,744.20	£179.07
Tesco	Personal Loan	3.0%	£10,770.60	£179.51
ZOPA	Personal Loan	3.2%	£10,833.00	£180.55

Credit Cards

Balance Transfer

Provider	Card	0% Period	Fee	Rep APR
Sainsbury's Bank	29 Month BT Credit Card	29 months	3.00%	19.9% variable
HSBC	28 Month BT Credit Card	28 months	1.40%	21.9% variable
Barclaycard	28 Month BT Credit Card	28 months	1.75%	19.9% variable
Virgin Money	28 Month BT Credit Card	28 months	1.75%	20.9% variable
Sainsbury's Bank	Dual Offer Credit Card	28 months	3.00%	20.9% variable

Purchase

Provider	Card	0% Period	Rep APR
Sainsbury's Bank	Dual Offer Credit Card	28 months	20.9% variable
Barclaycard	Platinum 27 Month Credit Card	27 months	19.9% variable
Virgin Money	23 Month All Round Credit Card	23 months	21.9% variable
M&S Bank	Shopping Plus Offer Credit Card	20 months	19.9% variable
HSBC	Matched Credit Card	18 months	22.9% variable

GoCompare

These products are only a selection of those available and you should take the time to compare the features and benefits of a wide range of products to find those that best suit your circumstances and requirements.

²Restrictions, terms and conditions apply

Correct as of 18th April 2019

HOW MANUKA HONEY CAN HELP GUT HEALTH

Manuka honey rides to the rescue as modern living takes its toll on gut health

You might reach for the Manuka honey when you have a cough or cold. But did you know Manuka may help your digestion too? Some Manuka fans swear by its gut-boosting powers. So how exactly can it help?

In recent years, friendly bacteria have been big news. A healthy community of good gut bugs – known as the microbiome – is essential for efficient digestion and for strong immunity, including fighting off bugs, such as those that cause food poisoning. Some research also suggests a diverse, thriving microbiome has a range of other health benefits, including keeping you slim and preventing heart disease.

Unfortunately, modern living's a bit of a gut microbiome

enemy. Your good bugs start building up from birth, and if you were born by Caesarean, you miss out on the dose of bacteria you get from a vaginal delivery. Breastfeeding delivers another whack of friendly bacteria – so if you were only bottle-fed, you may have missed out again. Later on, antibiotics, stress and poor diet can further diminish your community of

healthy bacteria.

Hence the current interest in probiotics and prebiotics. Probiotics are friendly bacteria, such as acidophilus, bifidobacterium and lactobacillus, which are the same as, or similar to, those found naturally in your gut.¹ Prebiotics are foods that help probiotics flourish – effectively, they act like manure for good bacteria. Effective prebiotic foods include leeks and bananas – but honey has also been shown to have prebiotic activity.²

Studies have revealed that honey contains types of prebiotic called fructo-oligosaccharides, which stimulate and maintain the growth of probiotics including lactobacillus and bifidobacterium.³

And Manuka honey may be particularly potent

when it comes to gut health. Here's how...

It may help fight stomach ulcers

Some research has found Manuka honey's natural antibacterial action may have a role in fighting *H.pylori*, the bacteria that causes stomach ulcers. At the moment, it's not clear how effective Manuka honey may be to possibly prevent a stomach ulcer, though, and more research is needed.

It may inhibit bacteria that causes food poisoning

Manuka honey is known for its antibacterial effects – and it may work well against one of the main bugs that causes serious food poisoning. *Clostridium difficile*, usually shortened to *C. difficile*, causes diarrhoea and other unpleasant and sometimes severe symptoms. A 2013 study showed promising results that Manuka honey may inhibit the growth of the bacteria.⁴

Gut-friendly goodness

If you want to try Manuka honey for gut health, why not try mixing it with other gut-friendly foods? Here are some ideas:

- Swirl a spoon of Manuka honey into some plain live yoghurt, which contains probiotic bacteria
- Add a little Manuka honey to a fruit salad – fruit is rich in fibre, essential for feeding good gut bugs
- Spread Manuka honey onto a fibre-dense oat cake and add chopped banana, another effective prebiotic.



POTENT PROTECTION: Manuka honey's natural antibacterial action may play a vital role in your gut health



Honey 'just as nature intended'

LEADING manuka honey makers, Manuka Doctor, actually buy land for their beehives in beautifully remote areas of New Zealand. Their bees remain undisturbed, free from pesticides and other unwelcome human interference. By hand-harvesting the honey and packing it in New Zealand, Manuka Doctor can trace their honey 'from hive to home', ensuring their promise of 'just as nature intended' is packed into every pot.

5 ways to enjoy Manuka honey



Deliciously flavoursome, Manuka Honey is versatile enough to use in lots of different ways, while still enjoying those wellness benefits.

Here are 5 ways to try it:

1. Manuka Honey, strawberry and banana smoothie: a tablespoon of Manuka honey works wonders in your favourite smoothies!
2. Healing honey porridge: simply stir a tablespoon of Manuka honey into your morning oats...stunning!
3. Fruit crumble: gently stew your chosen summer fruits in a mixture of water and Manuka Honey!
4. Manuka on toast: take a slice of rye bread, slather on your Manuka honey and top with sliced banana. Your digestive system will love it.
5. Manuka yoghurt: add a dash of Manuka Honey into plain yoghurt. Add a pinch of cinnamon, a handful of berries, and a sprinkling of chopped pecans. Yum!

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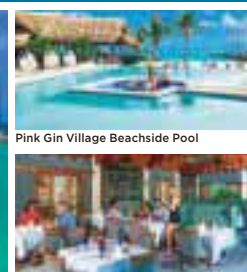
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TRAVEL

EDITED
BY NIGEL
THOMPSON

NIC BROOK takes on the Teeth Of The Dog course in the Dominican Republic's Casa de Campo resort, a true golfer's paradise



IRON MAN: Nic Brook, above, gets his jaws around Casa de Campo's stunning Teeth Of The Dog course before relaxing at the resort which boasts an array of luxurious accommodation

Luxury links to Dye Fore in a perfect setting

IT DOESN'T usually pay to shun your caddie's advice on a golf course that you're playing for the first time. But on the 16th hole at Casa de Campo's Teeth Of The Dog, I figured I'd found my rhythm enough to take a club less than the one suggested.

The par three was 165 yards and into an onshore breeze; the pin on a peninsula jutting in to the ocean. Anything weak and I'd be on rocks or waves of the Caribbean. Caddie Jacob (I'm not used to having a "carer", but Casa de Campo insist) reckoned it was too far for me to hit a five-iron but I was feeling strong and took a gamble.

I hit the ball well, right on the Tiger line. As it flew towards the flag I just

hoped it was enough... Some years ago, when I first heard of a golf course called Teeth Of The Dog it went straight on my bucket list of courses to play. But as it's at the Dominican Republic's Casa de Campo resort in the Caribbean I figured my hope was rather forlorn.

The course was built by renowned course designer Pete Dye, who has had a home at Casa de Campo ever since the early 1970s when the resort was first developed by industrialist Charles Bluhdorn.

Their local labourers carved a track through the jungle and along the rocky La Romana coastline to create a beautiful layout, considered one of the finest golf courses ever since.

Since its opening in 1971 Teeth Of

The Dog (it owes its name to the sharp rocks of the seven ocean holes) is regularly voted the No 1 course in the Caribbean and always figures in the top 50 world rankings.

Golf course architects are sometimes suspected of having a sadistic dislike of golfers (some make their courses almost unplayable) rather than any sense of humour, but as one of the other courses at Casa de Campo is called Dye Fore I liked his fun approach from the start.

I liked it even more when, earlier this year, I got the chance to go there with my wife Lynne and play the links ahead of the Latin America Amateur Championship. Casa de

TURN TO NEXT PAGE

News in brief

Singapore's Changi airport – consistently rated the world's best – is now even better. The £9.59billion 1.5 million sq ft Jewel lifestyle complex opened this week and offers travellers a vast, dazzling new world of retail, eating, accommodation – and a real rainforest with more than 100,000 plants.

Its centrepiece is the 130ft Rain Vortex, the world's tallest indoor waterfall, which is surrounded by a forest valley, mazes, slides, aerial netting walkways and 280 shops and restaurants. Directly connected to Changi's Terminals 1, 2 and 3, Jewel's facilities will offer baggage storage and early check-in desks.

Jewel will also house the first Yotelair hotel in Asia, featuring 130 cabins bookable for a minimum of four hours – perfect for short daytime layovers or overnight stays. There are 54 weekly flights between the UK and Singapore, with services run by British Airways, Singapore Airlines and Qantas. changiairport.com.

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FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Campo ("country house" in Spanish) is an amazing gated community spread across some 7,000 acres on the south-eastern coast. With an idyllic, tropical climate, beaches on palm-fringed shores, an azure sea with even a couple of islands to explore, this piece of paradise is the last word in luxury living.

Think Gleneagles but with Caribbean sunshine and a golf course akin to America's renowned Pebble Beach – a golfer's paradise.

We went off exploring in a golf buggy to find three more courses in addition to the main championship layout, a 400-berth marina and shipyard, an equestrian centre that stables 220 horses and features three polo pitches, a lodge at the heart of a 245-acre shooting centre, not to mention the largest tennis academy in the Caribbean.

But the biggest discovery is Altos de Chavón, a Mediterranean-style model village fashioned on cliffs above the Chavón River gorge that was originally conceived as film studios (Bluhdorn was chairman of Paramount when it was built) featuring a Cultural Centre, museums, a Grecian-style amphitheatre with seating for 5,000 at the five annual concerts.

In addition to the hotel there are 1,700 individually designed villas (50 available to rent) and more discreet guests are catered for with a private club complete with its own exclusive golf course and ocean front. Dining-wise you're spoilt for choice with almost a dozen first-rate restaurants all in atmospheric locations, offering menus ranging from Caribbean and Mexican to Italian, Spanish and Japanese.

The Dominican Republic is less than a four-hour flight from New York so most of the guests hail from the States. Many return year after year to this popular playground assured of a warm and genuine

welcome from the friendly and helpful staff.

Lying on the eastern half of Hispaniola, the Dominican Republic shares the island with Haiti, and was one of the islands "discovered" by Christopher Columbus in 1492, becoming the first Spanish colony in the New World.

Its capital, Santa Domingo is one of the oldest cities in the Caribbean and is well worth a day trip, especially as it is the home town of Juan Luis Guerra, my favourite Latin American musician.

AND THE golf? Superb. And although I didn't play anywhere near as well as Mexican champion Alvaro Ortiz (his LAAC triumph won him a place in this year's US Masters) I did manage to have just as much fun.

Not only are all the courses enjoyable, they are scenically among the most beautiful I've ever played. Golf tourists will also be pleased to learn that the coast between La Romana and Punta Cana to the south boasts another dozen really great tracks, making the Dominican Republic a serious golf destination.

At Teeth Of The Dog I teamed up with dentist (truthfully!) Ira from Toronto and Midlands businessman Anthony, and we had such a good time, with scratch golfer Anthony really playing superbly. I made full use of the wide fairways and sparse rough (wind, length and small undulating greens are the layout's defence) and came-in occasionally, especially on the second nine where I enjoyed back-to-back birdies.

And that Tiger line 5-iron over the bay at the 16th? It pitched 15ft short of the flag with Jacob – quite rightly – taking the credit for getting me psyched up to hit the right club.

Undoubtedly my shot of the day and capping off a great week at Teeth Of The Dog.

Run a rule over

Next Sunday sees the running of the Virgin Money London Marathon, one of the world's favourites. JANE MEMMLER looks at some of the planet's most scenic courses

LONDON: April 28

Not that we're biased but London really does put on a great show. There's nothing quite like the crowds, some up to five deep on Tower Bridge, the entertainment and the sheer excitement is palpable for this event. Attracting the world's best athletes adds to the event's prestige.

Starting in Greenwich with its rich maritime history, it weaves its way through Canary Wharf and its modernist skyscrapers (and huge crowds) through the East End's lively districts such as Bermondsey where bands keep everyone going before the last two miles along the Embankment and past the London Eye before turning on Parliament Square to the finish on The Mall.

Afterwards, pick up your tired competitor and head into nearby Soho to a pub for a celebratory pint.

See London the easy way the next day by way of a bus tour or a glide up the Thames to see where it all began, at Greenwich to explore the popular market or visit the newly restored Painted



FINISHING LINE: The Mall in London



BIRDIE'S EYE VIEW: A palm-fringed beach at Casa de Campo, left, and, above, one of the airy, beautiful rooms at the resort

GETTING THERE: Teletext Holidays offers seven nights on all-inclusive at the five star Casa de Campo Resort and Villas in La Romana, Dominican Republic, from £1,289 per person (based on two sharing) and including flights from Gatwick on September 17. teletextholidays.co.uk, 020 30011 273. A round of golf on the Teeth of the Dog course (casadecampo.com.do) starts at £150. Dominican Republic tourism: godominicanrepublic.com

best cities in the world

Hall in the Old Royal Naval College.
● virginmoneylondonmarathon.com; visitolondon.com

STOCKHOLM: June 1

This is a gem of city with standalone islands, medieval streets and grand 13th century buildings. The race weaves through all Stockholm's seven districts.

A good viewing point is the chic Vasastan area with its independent eateries. There's pretty Gamla Stan, the historical centre, stuffed with cobblestone alleyways and crowned by the sprawling Royal residence.

Beyond the race, there's the Royal Palace to nosey around; a boat trip out to the Drottningholm Palace through the glorious archipelago and, of course, the Abba museum.

● stockholmammarathon.se; visitstockholm.com

BERLIN: September 29

It's worth the 26.2 miles of pain just to pass through the neoclassical Brandenburg Gate, the finishing point.

Runners will swing by the

cutting-edge glass structure of Potsdamer Platz before winding through West Berlin with its stark architecture then east towards Mitte, looping Museum Island with its vast museums and Berliner Dom.

Take time out with a day trip to Potsdam, Germany's answer to Versailles. Wander the acres of grounds dotted with ornate Royal Palaces. Back in town, take in Berlin from 666ft up the old television tower, the Fernsehturm and read about the heroic attempted escapes from the East side of the Wall at the Checkpoint Charlie Museum.

● bmw-berlin-marathon.com; visitberlin.de

NEW YORK: November 3

There's nowhere quite like the Big Apple. Starting the race in outer Staten Island, the iconic Staten Island Bridge is one of the highlights for runners.

Hipster Williamsburg with its funky bars, trendy hotels and micro breweries is a great spot to spot your friends.

East Harlem and its tenement buildings see Gospel singers motivate and of course, Fifth

Avenue lined in stupendously expensive apartment blocks ushers exhausted runners into Central Park and the finish line.

Don't miss the brand new Statue of Liberty Museum (opens May 2019) and trying a run yourself, a gentle 5k around Central Park with fittoursnyc.com.

● tcsnycmarathon.org; nycgo.com

VALENCIA: December 1

This is a super flat and fast marathon. It starts in the modern area of Alameda, home to the modern City of Arts and Sciences where the race ends.

It travels through the neighbourhoods of Benimaclet, with tiny streets lined in gelato coloured buildings with iron balconies to Ruzafa, the Soho of Valencia with lively eateries.

Afterwards, don't miss the futuristic City of Arts and Sciences designed by Santiago Calatrava. The Oceanographic is Europe's largest aquarium with Beluga whales, penguins and sharks and the Hemisférico a massive 3D cinema.

● valenciaciudadde RUNNING.com; visitvalencia.com

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EASTBOURNE	Bay Majestic	£94	£94	£94	£94	£109	£139	£139	£139	£179	£179
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PAIGNTON	Bay Esplanade	£104	£104	£104	£104	£145	£169	£169	£169	£239	£239
TORQUAY	Riviera	£119.95	£119.95	£119.95	£129.95	£149.95	£159.95	£159.95	£159.95	£159.95	£169.95
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HENSINGHAM, CUMBRIA	Summergrove	£99.95	£99.95	£99.95	£99.95	£99.95	£189.95	£189.95	£189.95	£189.95	£189.95
KERESLEY, WARRICKS	Royal Court	Sold Out	£79.95	£79.95	Sold Out	£79.95	£149.95	£149.95	£149.95	£149.95	£159.95
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Dig in at work or for community

Millions of Brits live in properties that have no private outdoor space but opportunities to garden are never too far away, says LOUISE MIDGLEY

HAVING your own garden, especially in an inner city, is a luxury many people do without, yet with a little resourcefulness it is possible to find various ways to garden wherever you live.

There may be an opportunity to transform a scruffy car park, yard or unloved roof terrace at your workplace by giving it a horticultural makeover. Mounting evidence suggests that staff who have the opportunity to nurture plants during their coffee and lunch breaks are more productive and less likely to be stressed.

Low-maintenance projects such as growing edibles in containers or brightening a dull area with plants can improve the workplace environment.

With this in mind, the National Garden Gift Voucher scheme (NGGV), run by the Horticultural Trades Association, has launched a workplace gardening competition. There are four activities: chilli-off, windowsill salad, car park allotment; grow ticklish plants (*Mimosa pudica*, the sensitive plant).

Teams can post a photo or video of



BEST BUDS: Green-fingered volunteers at Sunny Corner, as part of Truro in Bloom, last year

their growing activity on the NGGV Facebook page facebook.com/GardenGiftVouchers, using the hashtag #GIGFY (gardening is good for you). The competition runs until July 31 and weekly winners will receive a £50 National Garden Gift Voucher.

For more information visit: hta.org.uk/garden-gift-vouchers/promotions-and-incentives/workplace-gardening-competition.html

The RHS organises two community gardening schemes: Britain in Bloom, an annual nationwide competition that relies heavily on year-round volunteer help, and It's Your Neighbourhood, a non-competitive way to green up a local area. Details are at rhs.org.uk.

Social Farms & Gardens supports thousands of grass roots projects across the UK. They have helped millions of people to use farming and gardening as a way to connect with others and put pride back into communities, while improving their health and wellbeing.

Anyone who wants to find out more about community gardening groups where they live should visit farmgarden.org.uk/your-area, select an area, click on a pin and then click on the project title.

Diary date

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● [Planthuntersfairs.co.uk](https://planthuntersfairs.co.uk)

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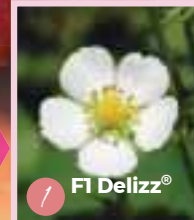
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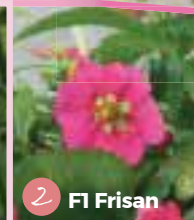
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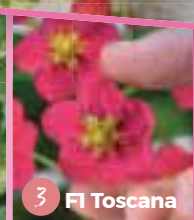
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Charity begins at home

STAYING connected to your community can get more difficult as you get older if friends and neighbours move away, which is why retirement property developments put so much effort into keeping residents in touch with local organisations.

McCarthy & Stone, for instance, has a new intergenerational living project and Churchill Retirement Living residents have been raising money for local charities with drop-in events in their owners' lounges.

These coffee-and-cake events have raised £8,789 for charities chosen by Churchill residents this year, at 44 developments from Cornwall to Merseyside.

Betjeman Lodge in Ludlow, Shropshire, raised £540, with the Churchill Foundation match-funding this to double the amount going to the Midlands Air Ambulance charity.

The £835 raised at Keys Lodge in Dartford, Kent, for Ellenor Hospice and £700 raised at Sachs Lodge in Torquay, for Torquay League of Friends will also be match-funded.

McCarthy & Stone's initiative is more about integration and its new project helps two generations within a community to learn from each other.

Homeowners at Wingfield Court in Sherborne, Dorset, are the first to take part, helping key stage one pupils

It's a win-win situation for residents as they raise money for good causes while keeping in touch with their local communities, as DEBORAH STONE finds out



STYLE: Langton House has a double-height lounge with French windows opening on to gardens

from Sherborne Abbey Primary School learn to read.

One of the homeowners involved is former teacher Jo Vincent, 77, who says the scheme is already making a difference: "Every generation has a different mindset, a different history."

"McCarthy & Stone's project opens doors to new opportunities for me to learn from the current generation of children while teaching them too."

The scheme started last October with weekly sessions and volunteers are keen to develop the relationship with other activities such as problem solving, modelling and field trips.

McCarthy & Stone, which has chosen national reading campaign Beanstalk as its 2019 charity, hopes to introduce the project to its other developments.

Research shows social interaction between generations can have huge mental and physical health benefits for older people, including improved mobility, less memory loss and reduced loneliness.

"Not only are our homeowners helping the children with their literacy skills, but they're also able to impart some of their knowledge and life experiences," says McCarthy & Stone chief John Tonkiss.

"It's lovely to see the immediate bonds being formed between them and the huge benefits it has had for homeowners and children alike."

YOU DON'T have to live in a retirement development to volunteer in your community but many people find that downsizing to a village or apartments with communal facilities gives them the opportunity to make new friends.

Other benefits include living in a new-build apartment designed for older people, with easy-access bathrooms and kitchens that have integrated appliances at the right height and power points that are well above floor level. There is also the security of a camera entry system and emergency alarms.

There are several two-bedroom apartments available at McCarthy & Stone's Langton House in Warlingham, Surrey, where communal facilities include a double-height club lounge, landscaped gardens plus parking and a concierge. It's less than half a mile from the village of Warlingham, which has shops including a post office and chemist. Prices start at £485,000.

At McCarthy & Stone's Albert Court in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, there's a club lounge and bistro restaurant, salon and guest suite for family visits and on-site estates team.

The historic centre of Henley, venue for the annual Royal Regatta, a literary festival, Jazz & Blues Week, plus food and drink festival, is within easy walking distance and has trains to London Paddington and Reading plus a hospital and swimming pool less than a mile away.

One-bedroom apartments start from £400,000 with two-bedroom flats from £545,000 (0800 201 4811; mccarthyandstone.co.uk).



NEW GENERATION: Former teacher Jo Vincent passes on her experience



FESTIVAL FUN: Albert Court is perfect for the riverside delights of Henley-on-Thames



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AMG is big on performance

Mercedes AMG GT Coupe

By Nat Barnes

JUST HOW fast do you want, or need, a four-door saloon to go? If your answer is 193mph, you're in luck with this new Mercedes AMG GT four-door coupe. It's effectively meant to be a four-door version of the German firm's GT supercar, with all the same eyewatering performance but with a pair of extra doors and more practicality.

Of course, Mercedes and AMG are no strangers to more practical performance with the likes of the hotter versions of the CLS and E-Class, but how much you can push that concept is another matter – this GT sets you back a cool £121,350 after all.

There's another burning issue in the form of the CLS, Mercedes' other four-door coupe, which also comes with an AMG version, albeit now *only* a 435bhp V6-engined version in the 53 model.

Power aside, though, while the CLS and AMG GT when compared alongside each other are noticeably different, at a casual glance it's easy to see how they could be confused. And being confused with a car that costs you 50 grand less isn't ideal.

Then again, this AMG GT isn't exactly for shy or retiring types. That wide grille with its dinner plate-sized three-pointed star set between those slim lights gives it an imposing look.

We also love the sleek lines, although the curvaceous rear might not be to everyone's tastes. While the styling helps hide some of the bulk, at almost 16-and-a-half foot long,



**LOGBOOK
LOWDOWN**
Price: £121,350
Engine: Turbo-petrol – 4.0-litre, V8
Power: 0 to 60mph in 3.4 seconds, 193mph top speed
Average fuel economy: 21.4mpg
CO₂ emissions: 256g/km
Rivals: Aston Martin Rapide, BMW M5, Porsche Panamera
Rating: 8/10

this is not a small car and it shows. It's also not slow.

AMG's old 6.0-litre engine might be absent, but it's still a twin-turbo 4.0-litre V8 petrol with an eye-watering 585bhp under your right foot.

With four-wheel drive as standard it's enough to get it from 0 to 60mph in just 3.4 seconds and on to that 193mph top speed. Officially, the average fuel economy is 21.4mpg, but any owners are unlikely to see anything close to that if they utilise any of the GT's performance.

And they're likely to do so too, as it's just too tempting. From the moment you push the starter button and the engine roars into life ahead of you, there's no question that this is a car of temptations.

Even with driving mode set in Comfort, a quick flick of your right foot is enough to have the GT leaping up the road and that performance is dangerously addictive.

In Sport mode those reactions are even more rapid and along with the strong brakes and sharp steering, you can cover ground disconcertingly quickly.

But there's a big difference between a quick car and a sporty car. And despite all of the clear driver focus, this is still a big

car. A big, 2.1 tonne car, in fact. And the GT's size and weight never really leave the back of your mind.

It may be capable of going very quickly and can go round corners at an astonishing rate thanks to its plentiful grip, but that sense of inertia is ever present. The brakes are powerful, but this is still a lot of

car to slow or stop. It may have the straight-line speed to match many a sports car, but this is not a set of wheels you can throw around like a Porsche Boxster.

That's apparent inside as well. The wide double-screen dashboard looks superb and there are deep, comfortable seats. But the low driving position and shallow glass area exacerbate the feeling of width inside the car and its overall sense of size.

That's not to knock the other elements of the Mercedes' interior. Build quality is exceptional and there are helpful switches on the steering wheel to change the driving modes and suspension settings.

In the back – the whole reason for buying this car above the two-door GT remember – there's a surprising amount of head and legroom but space for your feet is tight if the front seats are in their lowest position.

It's also a little claustrophobic, with the shallow glass area. Practicality is also a little compromised by the fact there's only two seats. Further back there's a long boot, but also a very high lip to lift bags over.

Overall, there's a lot to like about this four-door AMG GT. It looks good, it's rapid, it drives reasonably well and offers a modicum of practicality.

However, what it isn't is especially sporty due to its dimensions. Yes, we'd argue this is a better option than the go-faster SUVs out there, but it's not without compromise.

And if being asked to spend north of £120,000, we'd prefer not to compromise.

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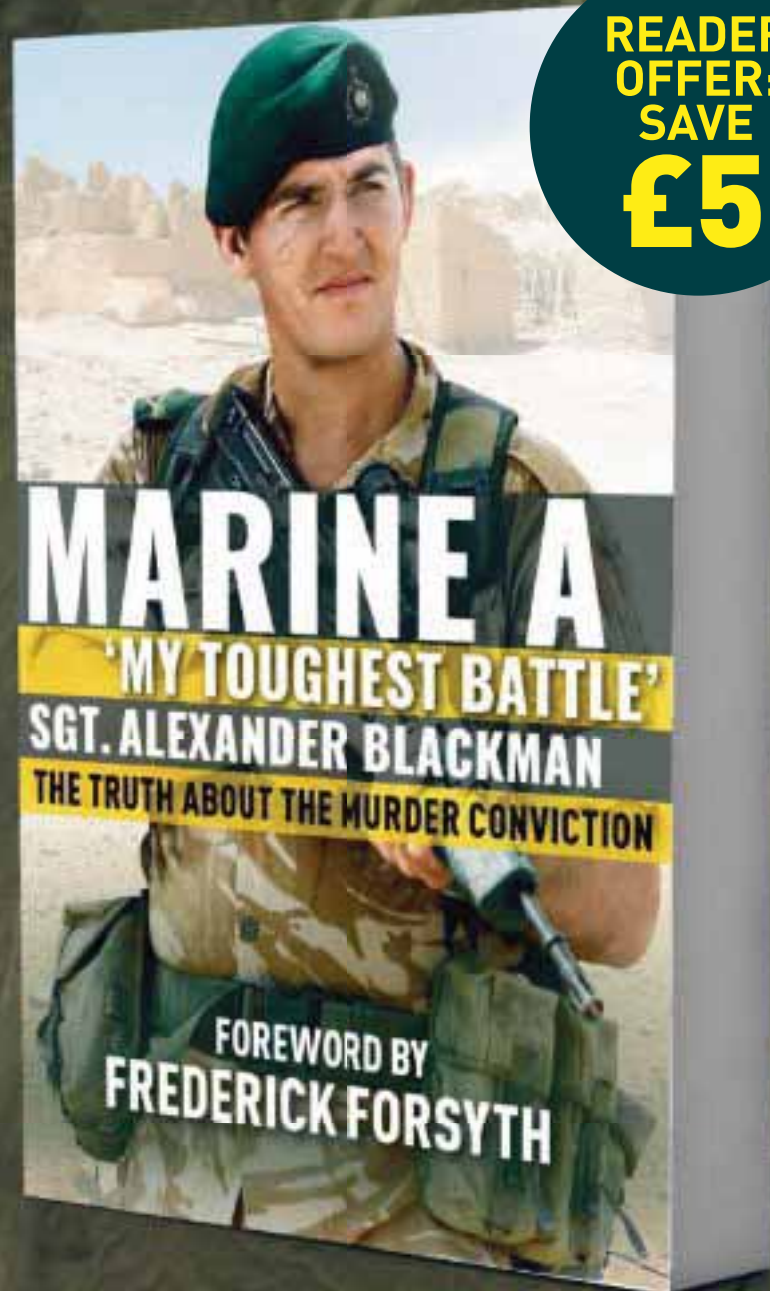
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ON THIS DAY...



WITH SHAUN WALLACE

March 21, 1509

FIVE HUNDRED and 10 years ago, Henry VII died. He had taken the crown when he defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth, ending the Wars of the Roses. There was stability during his 24-year rule then his son, Henry VIII, 17, took the throne and ushered in some of the most radical changes the country has known. Remembered for his six wives, he also led the breakaway from the Catholic church. The two were connected.

Catherine of Aragon, his wife of more than 20 years, had failed to provide him with a male heir and he sought to marry Anne Boleyn. The church wouldn't annul his marriage and when he forged ahead he was excommunicated by the Pope. He responded by breaking the Church of England away from Rome and in the 1534 Act of Supremacy he was declared Supreme Head on Earth of the Church of England.

Between 1536 and 1541 Henry disbanded

Also on this day

735BC: Romulus founds Rome.

1934: Newspapers publish photo of the Loch Ness Monster, later revealed to be a hoax.

1960: Brasilia named capital of Brazil, taking over from Rio de Janeiro.



more than 800 monasteries, convents and friaries, plundering their assets. He was excommunicated for a second time in 1538.

Meanwhile Henry was getting through wives at a rate. Anne Boleyn was beheaded in 1536 on almost certainly trumped-up treason charges. Jane Seymour lasted a year but died after giving birth to the longed-for male heir (Edward VI, who died aged 15) and his match with Anne of Cleves survived only months before annulment. Teenage Katherine Howard was beheaded in 1541 on adultery charges. By 1543 he was on to Catherine Parr, who survived him on his death in 1547.

Called both "one of the most charismatic rulers to sit on the English throne" and "England's Nero", the changes Henry brought in resonate to this day.

Question: Manfred von Richthofen was shot down this day in 1918 in France. What was he better known as?

Last week I asked which Caribbean leader, nicknamed Papa Doc, was born on this day in 1907? The answer is FRANCOIS DUVALIER.

Watch Shaun and his colleagues on *The Chase* on ITV at 5pm every day of the week

LETTERS

MPs not fit for the job

I do not expect it to work again but when Harold Wilson was PM I wrote to him and said that I had been told he could not operate a whelk stall on Brighton beach on a Bank Holiday Monday.

I received a pleasant reply and three days after that he resigned.

Well that statement refers these days to most of those politicians in Westminster who should note that we have had a "people's vote" when we told them that we wanted to leave the EU. They should then have got on with it ("Ministers fear Brexit 'is dead'", April 14).

I do not actually know why Parliament was involved. We had decided and it was up to the PM to make sure it happened by the due date. No customs link, no court of justice, no anything to do with the EU.

Once we had left was the time to talk about trade, and as for the "Irish Question", well, what is wrong with an electronic border? I have read and seen on television that it is extremely possible, so what on earth is stopping them?

David Campbell,
Seahouses, Northumberland

Prime Minister gave in

After nearly three years of farcical Brexit negotiations during which the PM surrendered every advantage she had, we now see the ludicrous situation where she's now trying to negotiate with politicians who don't want Brexit.

All we read or hear from Labour is that the Government hasn't compromised enough, constantly referring to the customs union. But can anybody state what compromise Labour has offered?

Tony Cartwright,
Chelmsford, Essex

Elections payback time

With regard to Nigel Farage's article ("The arrogant elite stuck two fingers up at the people", April 14), I have no problem with British participation in the Euro elections; sweeping victories by the Brexit Party might have the effect of improving MPs' view of Brexit.

As Samuel Johnson once said: "Depend upon it, sir, when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully."

The same thing may well apply to political parties.

Peter Davey,
Bournemouth

Do your job or face axe

It's called Great Britain but we sit on our backsides and allow those politicians, whom we pay, to walk all over us.

I wonder what it would take to make them sit up and think. Maybe a general strike. Of course not, we wouldn't dare, or would we?

Brexit is a joke and the joke should be on those politicians.

Do your job or lose your pay, see how that feels. You might as well, because after the next general election you will be out anyway.

Are Nigel Farage and the Brexit Party the answer? We will have to wait and see.

Jean Grey,
Hythe, Hampshire



RESIGNED: Former PM Harold Wilson

Corbyn's blame games

Jeremy Corbyn's Labour has no intention of coming to an agreement with the Tories, they are only there so they can say to their supporters that "we tried and the Tories wouldn't budge so it's their fault".

It's all part of the plan to create chaos so that they can present themselves as the saviours of the country in a general election.

Patrick Lacy,
Nottingham

Nick comes to senses

Please pass on congratulations to Nick Ferrari from all Brexiteers ("Sorry about the blip... I'm still a Brexiteer", April 14). Welcome back from the dark side.

Elizabeth Huxtable,
Birmingham

PC etiquette all around

Enough is enough, our so-called minority community keeps moaning about not getting starring jobs ("EastEnders is too white, says ex-star", April 14).

Well if you watch any programme these days politically-correct emphasis is there for all to see. Every programme has either an Asian or an African or lately a hijab-clad person.

Even shows such as *Midsomer Murders*, an old English story, or *Endeavour* and all adverts on TV these days are the same.

So please, Nitin Ganatra, you and others, stop whingeing.

Ari Sperling,
Bricket Wood, Hertfordshire

Shelling out for lost pet

Long before satellite tracking, a friend and I were playing lawn bowls at our club in Rhiwbina.

All was going well until we spotted something moving to our left. Not only was it supersize, it was superspeedy as well, as it scuttled along a nearby path.

It was the biggest tortoise we had ever seen, full address of its owner painted on its shell ("Tortoise tracked by satellite", April 14). Had postal codes been invented

then, there would have been sufficient room for that as well, the creature was that big.

To get to our club it had crossed two busy bus routes and some minor roads as well, an estimated distance of least three quarters of a mile.

Our game? We were so distracted that we gave up and made for the bar.

Norman Rendle,
Cardiff

True Notre-Dame spirit

Some buildings are more than just structures, they possess the character and spirit of all they represent and all that has been seen and taken place within, and around, their walls.

Notre-Dame is in essence, Paris. Its majestic beauty and its symbolism for the Catholic Church and Christianity define it the world over.

Last week may have seen devastation to its outer casing but it still holds the spirit of Paris. Notre-Dame will rise again and its new design and reconstruction will simply be a new page in the history of France.

Diane Silva,
Bournemouth

Keep Assange out of US

Julian Assange should not be extradited to America now the Ecuadorian government has tired of him ("Assange to face justice", Letters, April 7)

If he is to be extradited to Sweden over sexual assault allegations there should be a condition attached that they will not hand him over to America, where he faces allegations he conspired to download classified databases but there appears to be very little hard evidence.

Also, as a matter of common humanity, any jail sentence he receives there (I do not know that he would receive any) should take into account the time spent in the Ecuadorian embassy, where conditions were probably worse than a Swedish jail.

Brendan O'Brien,
Winchmore Hill, Greater London

Destroying our country

I AM convinced that human rights lawyers, the legal aid system plus their allies in Parliament and elsewhere, are intent on destroying our homeland financially and culturally.

Possibly awarding legal aid to Jihadi bride Shamima Begum would be obscene and an insult to all victims of terrorists.

Hugh Jones,
Cardiff

Telephone vote results

Last week we reported council chiefs who claim they are too cash-strapped to pay for vital services are splashing out thousands to hobnob with TV stars and we asked:

Are councils too cavalier with our hard-earned tax money?

YES: 99% NO: 1%

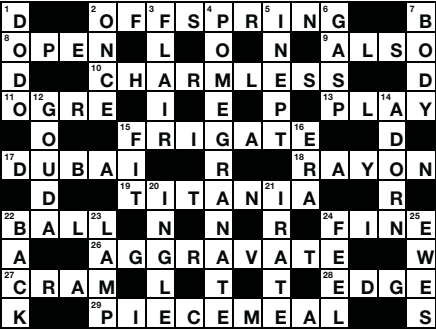
After Brexiteers vowed to keep fighting for Britain after senior Government figures warned "Brexit is dead", we asked:

Is Brexit being stolen by the elite?

YES: 99% NO: 1%

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Last week’s solution

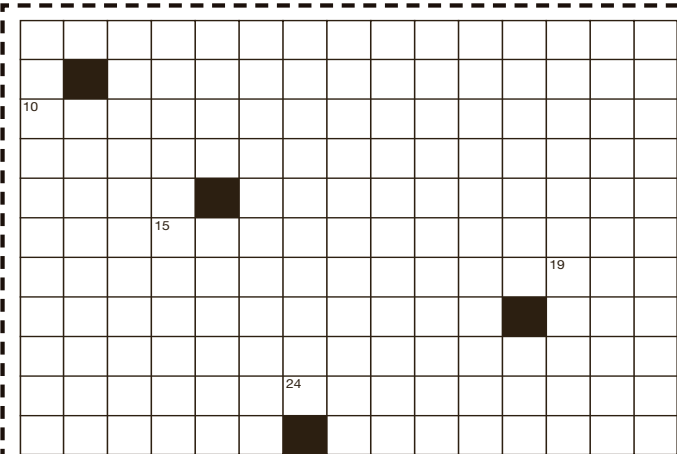


WINNERS: General Knowledge Crossword, Apr 7: £1,000: N Hammett, Plymouth, Devon. £25: B N Le Cras, Vale, Guernsey; Mrs E Munro, Edinburgh; S Harper, Littleborough, Manchester; S Ridout, Poole, Dorset; Ms J McNally, Pelton, Co Durham; Mr M R Reynolds, Norwich, Norfolk; D Byrne, Bangor, Co Down; V Edwards, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex; N Willis, Colchester, Essex. £50 Mystery Word Bonus: Mrs A Walker, Hednesford, Staffs. Skeleton Crossword, Apr 7: £100: L Harris, Tarporley, Cheshire. £25: E James, Bradford, W Yorks; J A Pritchard, Birmingham, W Mids; Mrs M McQueenie, Edinburgh; Miss J C Short, Weymouth, Dorset; J Ruxton, Glasgow; J Empson, Scunthorpe, Lincs; Mr B Bragg, Bideford, Devon; Mrs S Hiams, Leominster, Heref; G Holmes, Bournemouth, Dorset. £50 Mystery Word Bonus: F Young, Slough, Berks.

WINNERS: Please allow 30 days to receive your prize.

The Express Bookshop stocks a wide selection of puzzle books across all crossword puzzle genres. To obtain our up to date list please visit www.expressbookshop.com call 01872 562310 or write to Express Bookshop, PO Box 200, Falmouth TR11 4WJ. Please enclose an SAE for return.

There is a £100 prize for the first correct solution drawn; nine runners-up receive £25. Send your completed crossword to the address shown in the box below left. In the skeleton crossword, the black squares and clue numbers have to be filled in as well as the words. Four black squares and four clue numbers have been inserted to give you a start. The black squares form a symmetrical pattern; the top half matches the bottom, and the two sides correspond. You can fill in 12 more squares at once to correspond with those given.



Send to: Skeleton Crossword, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. The winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing date of noon on Friday. Please allow 30 days for prizes to arrive.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
POSTCODE: _____

ACROSS

- 1 Slow nobleman in a river
- 4 Frilly top got poorly folded
- 8 Queen covers ace, I hear
- 10 Woollen clothing a king improved
- 11 Merry insiders with second jobs
- 12 Maybe Jasmine's on Mark's side
- 14 Part of this may be defaced
- 15 Lacking cable is not acceptable (3 words)
- 16 Icon caught out leaving third island
- 18 Article going on about time and space
- 22 Sweet friend really consumed eggs
- 23 Distinguished peer receiving cheers
- 24 Belittled officer taking over a group
- 25 City a lawyer leaves was leaderless

26 One hosting games for all to see

DOWN

- 1 Beaten reps do put it out
- 2 Greek character past defenders?
- 3 Search for vocal believer
- 5 Casual pair Yemeni bears
- 6 Language student after work
- 7 Players teed off very badly
- 8 Commentary about idolater one embraced
- 9 Hardy novel internalised and rejected
- 13 Tick joining flea behind bird
- 14 Main course (average portion)
- 17 Coward perhaps taking against unusual...
- 19 ...bird ascending over empty silo
- 20 Scrap metal under some curios?
- 21 It's on the first sixteen letters

£50 Mystery Word Bonus

Ring 0901 322 5301 for a chance to win £50. Give the correct answer to **15 Across** leaving your name and address. *Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received by noon on Thursday.

THE £1,000 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD CAN BE FOUND INSIDE S MAGAZINE

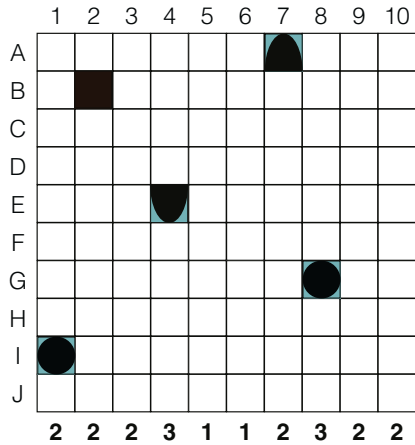
PUB QUIZ

- 1. "Close your eyes and I'll kiss you" is the opening line of which song by The Beatles?
- 2. Which English landscape artist painted The Hay Wain?
- 3. Before becoming comedians, Greg Davies and Romesh Ranganathan both had what job?
- 4. Which late jockey and journalist wrote more than 50 crime novels, including Dead Cert and Whip Hand?
- 5. Who starred as Superman opposite Amy Adams, right, as Lois Lane in the 2013 film Man Of Steel?
- 6. What rank was held by Arthur Wilson, the character played by John Le Mesurier in Dad's Army?
- 7. What is the capital of the US state of Ohio?
- 8. Which American former golfer is nicknamed the Golden Bear?
- 9. Which film, starring Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight, won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1970?
- 10. Which US comedy series was created and written by Lena Dunham, who also starred in the show as aspiring writer Hannah Horvath?

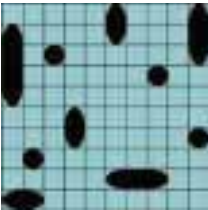
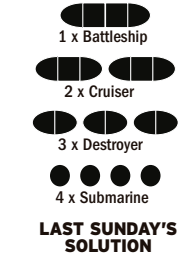


ANSWERS: 1 All My Loving 2 John Constable 3 Teacher 4 Dick Francis 5 Henry Cavill 6 Sergeant 7 Columbus 8 Jack Nicklaus 9 Midnight Cowboy 10 Girls.

BATTLESHIPS



FIND where the fleet of ships shown are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.



THE SUNDAY CRUSADER AND HIS SQUIRE

The Crusader's clues

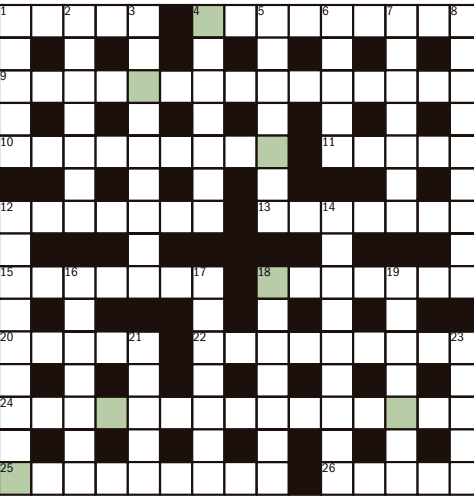
ACROSS

- 1 Cut, cut – quiet cutting? (5)
- 4 Savagery saves lives as missions start (9)
- 9 Giving pal not treated right (9,2,4)
- 10 Plain occupied by duff northern town (9)
- 11 A metal brace, note, nearby (5)
- 12 Sleuth leaving a flower attached to a plant (7)
- 13 Sauce key when added to a tortilla... (7)
- 15 ...[dish giving a Californian guru gas] (7)
- 18 Break away from insecure male (4-3)
- 20 Sheep have run aboard vessels (5)
- 22 City park that group may behind entered (9)
- 24 A false shinbone's variation in quality (15)
- 25 Spot John yielded at last, rectifying my need (9)
- 26 Irritable writers part with pen (5)

DOWN

- 1 Petty officer everyone follows (5)
- 2 Praise of excellent cut, say (7)
- 3 Mimicry an expert has curtailed at last (9)
- 4 Include demand to hear noise (5,2)
- 5 Plant value decreased by kid (7)
- 6 Neighbour having nothing on (5)
- 7 Poor panellist's less apt complaint (7)
- 8 Vegetable produce from a chap's base (9)
- 12 Necessary abuse of old elf in a saloon, perhaps (6,3)
- 14 Wayward mugs by tee go for it (2,2,5)
- 16 Relative seeing this starts records playing (7)
- 17 Stretch of river entered by savages (7)
- 18 Jam put back on Ivan's bread (7)
- 19 Beasts strangely reorganise without ire (7)
- 21 Risqué short film set in Shrewsbury (5)
- 23 Very breezy fellow gaining weight (5)

Cryptic clues from our knight, and quick clues from his squire, lead to the same answers in the Crusader's Sunday joust



The Squire's clues

ACROSS

- 1 Pointed (5)
- 4 Uncivilised quality (9)
- 9 Smoothly (9,2,4)
- 10 Town of northern Wales (9)
- 11 On that (5)
- 12 Plant of the pink family (7)
- 13 State of SE Mexico (7)
- 15 Flat sheets of pasta (7)
- 18 Recess (4-3)
- 20 Pitchers (5)
- 22 Capital of North Korea (9)
- 24 Popularity (15)
- 25 Historic meadow near Windsor (9)
- 26 Grumpy (5)

DOWN

- 1 Little (5)
- 2 Plaudits (7)
- 3 Lampooning (9)
- 4 Integrate (5,2)
- 5 Yellow-flowered plant of the daisy family (7)
- 6 Regarding (5)
- 7 Malady (7)
- 8 Sugar pea (9)
- 12 Required (6,3)
- 14 Please do (2,2,5)
- 16 Male child from a spouse's former marriage (7)
- 17 Wide extent (7)
- 18 Difficulty (7)
- 19 Asian wild asses (7)
- 21 Piquant (5)
- 23 Blustery (5)

For your chance to WIN £100 read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.
TO ENTER CALL: 0904 161 1610
and leave your answer and details, or text SXCRUS followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to 84915 or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares to: Sunday Express Prize Crossword, April 21 2019, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. Competition closes Thursday, April 25 at 23:59pm.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
POSTCODE: _____

Winner will be selected at random from all correct entry routes after the closing date. Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

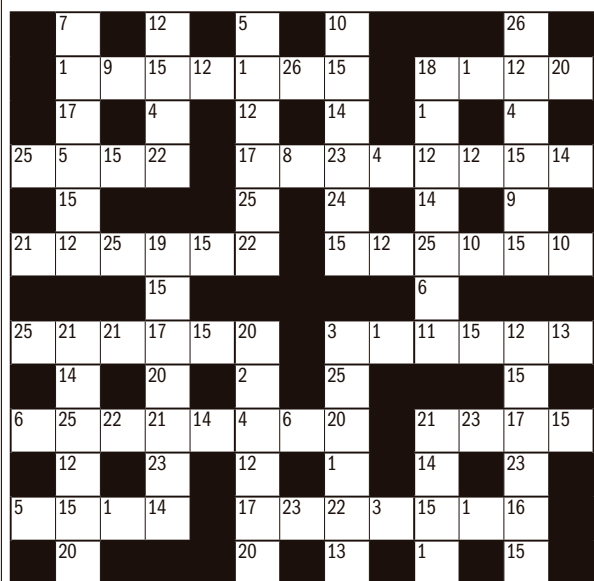
LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTION: Across: 1 Brace, 4 Castigate, 9 Unaccommodating, 10 Ordaining, 11 Thing, 12 Contain, 13 Succeed, 15 Migrate, 18 Pelican, 20 Roast, 22 Snaffling, 24 Stars and Stripes, 25 Dead ahead, 26 Hurts. Down: 1 Bruno, 2 Abandon, 3 Enchilada, 4 Campion, 5 Stoozes, 6 Inapt, 7 Asinine, 8 Engaged, 12 Comprised, 14 Call forth, 16 Granada, 17 Essence, 18 Praised, 19 Chipper, 21 Tesla, 23 Gasp. PRIZE WORD: Recoil

*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390

ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests your logic and word power. Each grid number represents a letter. Each letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Can you beat the Target Time? Call for an Extra Letter Clue if you get stuck. Solution next Sunday. **DIFFICULTY:** 10/10;

TARGET TIME: 30 minutes; **CLUE:** Level offspring found in church.



For extra letter clues, call:

0907 181 2603

(Deduct two minutes from Target Time for each extra letter heard).

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text:

SXALPHA to 84901.

Texts cost £1 plus your normal network operator rate.

Full solution:

0907 181 2602

Across only:

0907 181 2600

Down only:

0907 181 2601

*Calls cost 80p a minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

SP: Spoke, London W1B 2AG.

Last Sunday's solution

ACROSS: Ecstatic, Abjure, Inhale (clue), Vehicle, Chase, Name, But, Guy, Hour, Adept, Winsome, Sexual, Years, Soothsayer. DOWN: Castaway, Cinch, Beanbag, Ailment, Miss, Vamoose, Cafe, Gravest, Quickly, Plaza, Emergent.

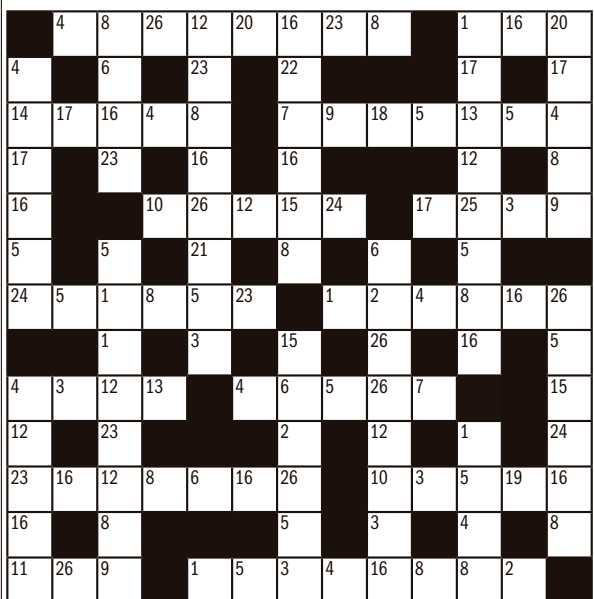


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THE ULTRA ALPHAPUZZLE®

Here's the Ultra Alphapuzzle® – Sunday's extra tough version of Britain's favourite wordpower challenge. Each grid number represents a different letter. All 26 letters are used.

Target time: 30 minutes **Solution next Sunday.**



For up to six extra clue letters call:

0907 181 2607

(Deduct three minutes from Target Time for each extra letter heard).

Alternatively, for six extra clues direct to your mobile, text:

SXALPHAU to 84901.

Texts cost £1 plus your normal network rate.

Full solution:

0907 181 2611

Across only:

0907 181 2609

Down only:

0907 181 2610

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Last Sunday's solution

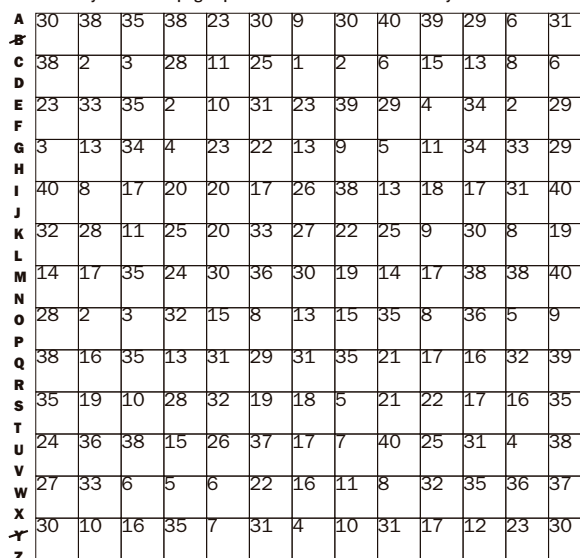
ACROSS: Past, Placid, Envid, Snooze, Partner, Cadre, Toy, Midst, Dab, Helix, Wishful, Bigamy, Quince, Solemn, Jest. DOWN: Despatch, Bus, Poverty, Legal, Skein, Maximum, Bradawl, Linocut, Sauce, Cloud, Defunct, Doe, Embolden.



THINKING SPACE

ULTIMATE ALPHABEATER

Can you crack the super-tough Ultimate Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the main grid to start. Alphabeater is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words it looks exactly the same if you turn the page upside down. Solution next Sunday.



Target time: 46 minutes

Stuck getting started?

Try one of our helplines.

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Full solution:

0907 181 2598

Across only:

0907 181 2596

Down only:

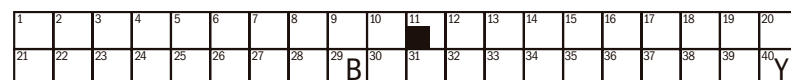
0907 181 2597

Last Sunday's Solution:

Black squares: 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, 27, 30, 33, 35.

Across: Barbecue, Sauce, Watch, Flounder, Jived, Jeer, Fry, Emu, Axis, Brown, Oddurate, Motif, Piton, Triptych.

Down: Brazier, Brim, Yard, Rocker, Vagrant, Alleviate, Esquire, Groovy, Doze, Acre, Mawkish.



For up to six extra letters call 0907 181 2599 (Deduct five minutes from Target Time for each extra letter heard). Callers will also hear two black squares clues free of any Target Time penalty. *Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **SXBEAT to 84901** Texts cost £1 plus your usual network operator rate. Reduce Target Time by five minutes for each extra letter

● Puzzle phone and text services SP: Spoke, London W1B 2AG

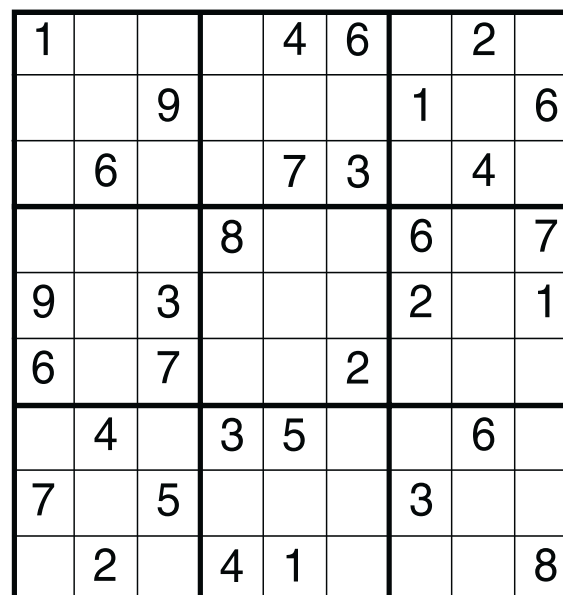
*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390

BRAIN TEASERS

- Each friend attending the birthday party agreed to bring one drink and one food item. Sidney would only bring the coffee if Sandra brought cake. The person who brought nachos didn't bring beer. Sidney brought either the nachos or champagne, Steven didn't bring pizza and Sandra didn't bring beer. Who brought what to the party?
- Which two words meaning 'notion' and 'record' combine into one meaning 'wishful thinker'?
- Find the soul singers in these anagrams:
a) Eat Jetsam, b) Navy Mirage, c) Early Crash.
- Hannah is proofreading a book which is 135 pages long. It takes her four minutes to proofread each page thoroughly. Each time she spots a mistake, it takes her 90 seconds to correct the error in the text. When she's finished proofreading, she prints a copy of the book. Her printer takes 6 seconds per page. The whole process takes exactly eleven hours. How many mistakes were in the book?

ANSWERS: 1) Sidney pizza and champagne, Steven cake and beer, Sandra nachos and coffee. 2) Idea-list. 3) a) Etta James, b) Marvin Gaye, c) Ray Charles. 4) 71 mistakes.

SUDOKU



Fill the small squares so that every column, every row, and every 3x3 square includes all of the digits from 1 to 9.

Level: Gentle

Target: 16 minutes

For extra clues call

0901 322 5600

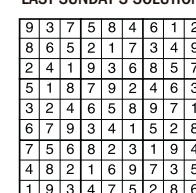
(Calls cost 77p per call from a BT landline plus network extras, other networks and mobiles may vary)

For today's full solution call

0907 181 2606

(Calls cost 77p per minute from BT landlines plus network extras, other networks and mobiles may vary).

LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTION



To order Express Sudoku Puzzles (with more than 100 puzzles and tips) at £5.99; or the new Express Sudoku CD-ROM with more than 1,000 printable puzzles at £9.99, send cheque or postal order to Express Bookshop, PO Box 200, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 4WJ; or phone 0871 988 8366 (10p per min on BT landline); or order online at www.expressbookshop.com.

WINTER'S PLANET

BY STUART WINTER

Follow him on twitter:
@birderman

Wren's game of hide and shriek



LITTLE VOICE: A singing wren is the symbol of the newly published RSPB Guide to Birdsong book

NOT HAVING to set the alarm clock or reach for it a few hours later with groggy hands is one of the joys of spring.

Whatever mechanical means most people use to sound reveille, be it a smartphone app, telephone wake-up call or traditional clock chimes, nothing welcomes the arrival of a new day as gloriously as nature's most ebullient dawn chorister.

Mouse-like wrens love living in the shadows, scurrying furtively through vegetation or whirring across lawns and diving for cover on stubby wings. The merest hint of sunlight emerging on the eastern horizon sends them into a frenzy to pour forth a song that belies their size and can awaken an entire neighbourhood.

The past fortnight I have foregone clock-setting to depend on a brazen

male wren declaring his territory from the depths of a hawthorn with incredible reliability. Exactly 30 minutes before sunrise, he sounds his clarion call with a flurry of explosive notes, likened by some historians to the drum roll sounded by sentries warning of an attack. Wordsworth was so beguiled by the song that he describes in The Prelude how he could use the bird's song post as an eternal dwelling place.

Our garden wren is not so much poetic as punctual, though the advance of sunrise by two minutes every spring day means I am now awakened much earlier than when the clocks went forward last month.

While the shriek kick-starts my body, it serves a multiple of purposes for the wren by attracting mates and defending his patch. It is a successful strategy: wrens are our most abundant birds with 7.7 million territories across the UK. The newly

published RSPB Guide to Birdsong has a singing wren on the cover and author Adrian Thomas told me how he chose the image of the bird with beak wide open because it is unusual to catch sight of this surreptitious species breaking cover to warble.

Adrian's knowledge of the science and majesty of birdsong resonates from every page as he tells how to recognise the vocalisations of 250 species, opening a new dimension of birdwatching to novice and expert.

The book also comes with an audio CD of sounds recorded by Adrian that acts as an invaluable introduction to understanding birdsong and how to use all its wonderful variations to identify birds. Most top birdwatchers can put

a name to a bird by sound long before they have focused their binoculars.

Adrian's recordings also demonstrate the

sheer wonderment of nature's finest choral works, something the RSPB has been extolling in its Let Nature Sing project and which, hopefully, will soon be soaring up the charts. The charity has taken some of Adrian's recordings made by birds facing serious conservation issues, such as the turtle dove, cuckoo, curlew, crane and nightingale to compile a single that will be released on Dawn Chorus Day next month.

Martin Harper, RSPB director of conservation, says: "Nature is falling silent. Children today are growing up with much less birdsong in the soundtrack to their lives."

"We're asking people to show their support and concern for nature by downloading the single."

Visit rspb.org.uk/letnaturesing

● **RSPB Guide To Birdsong** by Adrian Thomas (Bloomsbury, priced £15.99).

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"Another joke!" laughs Rupert. "Keep On climbing - now they're steep..."



They reach a landing lined with books, But is it everything it looks?

Rupert

And The April Fool
EPISODE 14

"These stairs are as bad as the maze!" puffs Willie. "First they go up, then they go down, and now they're even steeper than ever!"

"Never mind," says Rupert, giving his chum a hand. "We can't have much further to climb, I think I can see the top from here..."

The pair reach a landing lined with tall, cluttered bookcases.

"At least they look fairly normal," says Willie, still recovering his breath.

"Yes," agrees Rupert. "But look at the window. It's completely upside down!"

To order the Rupert annual for 2019 (no.83) AT £9.99, please call 01872 562315; send a cheque/PO to Rupert Bear Shop, PO Box 200, Falmouth, TR11 4WJ; or order online at www.classicrupert-bearshop.com – UK delivery is free.

Advertisement

Win £19,750!

Q H G F R T Y G F G F V C X C V G T Y
A F F R O Y A L G F D G D X D F F X T
S G G E F G F C D F F A G X F D G C R
D F Y R B P T G F G G T Q U E E N F E
R D H T V A Y H G F T Y T C R F Z T R
T F G G C L T Y T R R U P V T G X Y Y
R R F F S A G T R G E Y R F Y F Z U U
C T D D E C R R E H R H I Y H R X I Y
A F R F G E R E F G T G N U G E Z U T
S F Z G H G T G F D T G C I F F X J E
T G X B N B V X C V F F E K G G C H R
L H C F G H Y U J H G F D J F H D G T
E G X C V X D F R T G F D F D G S F Y
R F D F G R T G F G H Y T G F F D D U
T F D K I N G D F G T R E D S D F F U
Y N M N B V C X C V F D E R E D S G J
T F G H H J Y U J N B V C V C X V C H
G Z Q A S D F G F F W I N D S O R B G
F D F R T Y G H Y U Y H G F D S D F G
D F S T A T U E S D R E R T G F D G H

One word from the word list below is NOT in the puzzle grid. This missing word is your £19,750 answer!

WORD LIST

ROYAL
PRINCE
CASTLE
KING
QUEEN
WINDSOR
CROWN
PALACE

HURRY! CLOSING MIDNIGHT TOMORROW!

To challenge you, we've also hidden a £1,500 'mystery word'. Find it in the puzzle and register your answer on our entry line for the chance to win another £1,500 cash!

Hint:
A Figure That
Never Moves

Here's your special chance to claim £19,750 cash in our latest wordsearch competition. That's right, we're giving all United Kingdom residents who qualify and are over 18 the chance to **Win Nineteen Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Pounds Cash!**

All you have to do is find the MISSING WORD

from the puzzle grid above and activate your entry for the draw now for the chance to win one of the 95 cash prizes available!

Simply call our £19,750 correct answer phone line with your answer and you will be told on the phone if your entry has been accepted. But hurry because we have limited the time for entries!

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PREMIER LEAGUE

PLAYING TODAY: KICK-OFF 4pm
CARDIFF v LIVERPOOL

Warnock won't tinker with battling heroes

CARDIFF boss Neil Warnock will resist all temptation to shuffle his pack for the visit of title-chasing Liverpool.

With four games left to save his Bluebirds from relegation, Warnock could be forgiven for resting some key players today to ensure they are fresh for seemingly easier fixtures to come.

After facing Jurgen Klopp's league leaders, Cardiff travel to doomed Fulham, then host Crystal Palace before

By **Harry Pratt**

a final-day trip to Manchester United. But Warnock (below) reckons chopping and changing his side would spark a dressing-room riot.



And he also believes no-one should miss out following the vital 2-0 victory at Brighton on Tuesday.

Warnock said: "Everybody wants to be involved. They'd be banging down my door if I left anyone out for Liverpool. They are in the zone. They want to play."

Klopp's steering clear of Liverpool title talk

JURGEN KLOPP has put himself under house arrest for the title run-in.

The Kop boss has revealed he's in his own bubble as Liverpool chase their first League title in 29 years – and he's staying away from fans as the race draws to a close.

Klopp admits he isn't going out to buy a pint of milk or a pair of jeans to avoid mixing with excited fans as the race reaches fever pitch on Merseyside. "No, I

By **Steve Bates**

don't go out shopping. I have enough jeans for the next 20 years so I'm all right. And it was a long time ago that I went out to buy milk to be honest," says Klopp (left).



"I'm not so silly that I can't imagine the mood in the city but I don't need to read it. I don't need to hear it, it's football, and for most of my life I have been a pure football supporter.

"I love the situation we are in."

IT'S A BATTLE



Pep: If we lose a game league – we could have

EMOTION spilled out of Pep Guardiola in a tidal wave as he reflected on the never-ending dramas of the Premier League title race between his Manchester

City team and fierce rivals Liverpool. City's passionate manager was full of praise for the fighting spirit of his players to recover from Champions League heartbreak and claim a

crucial 1-0 victory against Tottenham with a goal from teenager Phil Foden.

He was also agog with admiration for the Liverpool team they are matching victory for victory during a spellbinding run-in.

"We have 86 points now with four matches left and it is one of the most remarkable things I have seen in my football career as a manager," said Guardiola.

"Honestly, in this league of tough physicality and where everybody can lose to anybody, it is really incredible.

"We are fighting with the best Liverpool ever – and one of the best teams I have seen in my whole life. If we win the title we will be so happy.

"I really appreciate what my players are doing, and I am calm in my perspective.

"I am more than satisfied just to qualify for the Champions League.



Jim HOLDEN

AT THE ETIHAD

"It doesn't matter what happens next. We will fight until the end, and we'll see how far we get.

"The last two days have been really tough for us. We could have lost the Premier League today. As a footballer I could not have done what my players did today.

"We know that if we lose a game we lose the Premier League. We have 10 league wins in a row – that's not bad.

"We need to win 14 for the title."

Guardiola's nerves have been shredded in recent weeks, and the midweek exit from the Champions League at the quarter-final stage against Spurs on the away goals rule hurt him badly.

"Our job as managers is crazy," said Pep. "Lose one match and you are no good, a failure. That's what



BLOW: City lost Kevin De Bruyne to injury

WORTHY RIVALS: Guardiola has so much admiration for the way Liverpool have fought

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PREMIER LEAGUE

OF NERVES NOW

we lose the
lost it today

people say about me and about someone like Max Allegri at Juventus when they also lost in the quarter-finals."

Guardiola also reflected on his gamble to pick teenager Foden for such a significant game, a risk that paid off handsomely.

"Now I am a genius for doing that," joked the City boss. "That's the life of a manager."

"I trust him a lot. Phil is an incredibly talented player, and we need to handle him in the right way."

"I decided on Friday to pick him for this game."

"We needed his capacity to press high, and his quality to arrive in the box and get chances."

"Playing in the Premier League is an incredible experience for him. He is so dynamic and adds extra intensity into our game."

"Maybe he can play against Manchester United in the next game on Wednesday – maybe."

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino felt his team deserved a draw from a match which failed to hit the heights of the epic Champions League quarter-final showdown.

"Just because you deserve it, doesn't mean you always get it," said Pochettino.

"Our performance was very good, and we competed really well, and their goalkeeper Ederson was man of the match."

"But finishing in the top four is in our hands. The next two games against Brighton and West Ham will be decisive."



TEENAGE KICKS:
City players mob
Phil Foden after his
winner yesterday



MATCH REPORT: TURN TO PULLOUT PAGES 2-3



HONOUR: Sterling and van Dijk

Sterling leads
way for award

RAHEEM STERLING and Virgil van Dijk top a six-man shortlist for this season's Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year.

Centre-back Van Dijk joins Liverpool team-mate Sadio Mane on the list, while Sterling is included alongside fellow Manchester City players Sergio Aguero and Bernardo Silva.

Chelsea's Eden Hazard completes the nominees for the 2018-19 campaign, with the winner scheduled to be announced next Sunday.

In the league, Van Dijk has helped Liverpool keep 18 clean sheets and concede only 20 times, while also chipping in with three goals.

Sterling has been as impressive for City, enjoying a stunning season as his side eye a memorable treble.

Valverde fears trio

BARCELONA manager Ernesto Valverde is worried about facing Liverpool's front three of Roberto Firmino, Mo Salah and Sadio Mane in their Champions League semi-final first leg on May 1.

He said: "Their offensive players have been showing their potential."

Carrick stays
with boss Ole

By Steve Bates

MICHAEL CARRICK is on the brink of signing a new contract to help boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer continue Manchester United's revival.

But Mike Phelan could be heading from the dug-out to the boardroom at Old Trafford.

Former midfield star Carrick (right) and fellow coach Kieran McKenna will sign new deals in the next few days to stay on.

But Phelan, former no2 to Sir Alex Ferguson, is on secondment from Australian side Central Coast Mariners where he is sporting director. And that's the job he's believed to prefer if he moves back to United full-time next season.

ALLI'S LEARNED FROM
ENGLAND ADVENTURE

DELE ALLI has claimed Tottenham's England stars are drawing on their World Cup success in Russia.

And he's convinced the experience of digging out results in big knockout games with the Three Lions is paying dividends in the Champions League.

Alli (right), Danny Rose, Kieran Trippier and Harry Kane gained valuable knowledge in Russia last summer that's helping Mauricio Pochettino's stars cope better with the big-game pressure.

Alli said: "I think that is the case. As a team we've had a lot of experiences



By Steve Bates

together when we are in different positions and when we are losing.

"But with that experience we need to show we are learning from that and we've shown we are this season."

"Again, against Manchester City over two legs, we proved that we are doing so."

"Sticking together as England did and having tasted various experiences like the World Cup, we are learning from previous years."

KANTE PUTS TOP FOUR
BEFORE EUROPA FINAL

N'GOLO KANTE would love to add a Europa League winner's medal to a trophy cabinet already bulging with some of the biggest pieces of silverware in the game.

But the midfielder knows Chelsea must put their hopes of beating Eintracht Frankfurt to reach May's final in Bacu to one side, so they can concentrate on a top-four Premier League finish.

Kante (right) and his Stamford Bridge pals have a major battle on their hands, with arguably the hardest run-in in the race for Champions League

By Tom Hopkinson

places. Tomorrow they host Burnley, who have won their last three matches, before a visit to top-four rivals Manchester United a week today.

Kante said: "We are three games away from the Europa League title but we need first to go for fourth and then do our best."

Of the Europa semi-final, Kante added: "The second leg is at home so we'll see if that's an advantage. "The most important thing is to win and go through."



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WILL TAKE YEARS!**
 SOLSKJAER DELIVERS REALITY CHECK FOR FANS: pullout P6

**PSG £65m
CARROT
TO SNAP
UP ZAHA**

By **Neil Fissler**

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN are ready to make a shock £65million offer for Crystal Palace star Wilfried Zaha, who has set his heart on leaving the club this summer.

Zaha (above), 26, has told Palace he wants to leave Selhurst Park for a second time to play in the Champions League.

Tottenham are long-term admirers but cannot compete with PSG's cash.

Zaha is Palace's highest-paid player, earning around £130,000 a week – but PSG would offer him a fat pay rise to ensure he moves to the French capital.

They have been keeping tabs on him this season and have been impressed with scouting reports.

**BALE WON'T
TAKE CUT TO
QUIT REAL**

By **Tom Hopkinson**

GARETH BALE will refuse to leave Real Madrid unless his suitors match his astronomical wages.

The Welshman, 29, still has three years to run on his contract with the club and he will tell them he is happy to sit tight and collect his wages – reportedly around £350,000 a week – even if new boss Zinedine Zidane doesn't play him.

Few clubs in world football have the resources to match that sort of salary. And if no one is willing to make such an offer, then Bale (above) is content to stay in Spain.

FODEN'S THE BOY WONDER

Teen's first Premier goal vital for City

PHIL FODEN lived up to his tag as the wonder kid of English football to grab the goal that kept Manchester City on course to retain the Premier League title.

The 18-year-old, a surprise selection, scored the only goal in a tense 1-0 win against Spurs, and manager Pep Guardiola said: "I trust him so much. Foden is more than ready to play and he did well. I wanted more aggression

Man City 1 Tottenham 0
 By **Jim Holden**

in the box and he has the capacity with his work and ability." It was a dream match for Foden, who said: "It was a

HOW THEY STAND					
	P	W	D	L	Pts
MAN CITY	34	28	2	4	86
LIVERPOOL	34	26	7	1	85
TOTTENHAM	34	22	1	11	67
ARSENAL	33	20	6	7	66

bit of a surprise but I'm ready for whenever I'm picked. It hasn't sunk in yet but I'm just happy to help the team and get a goal. It's my first in the Premier League, so it will live with me forever."

FULL STORY: P66-67



FIRST CUT IS THE DEEPEST:
 Phil Foden celebrates his first goal in the Premier League to put City back on top of the table



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SUNDAY EXPRESS Sport

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TALK OF THE TOON: Ayoze Perez hit his first hat-trick for Newcastle

TREBLE TOP FOR PEREZ

Spaniard fires Toon to safety with hat-trick



Toon offer may tempt Rafa

NEWCASTLE will consider handing Rafa Benitez a one-year deal as a quick fix to their contract stand-off.

The Spaniard is in talks to extend his contract which ends in June.

The club wants Benitez to sign up for a longer period so that players he buys are more settled, and not discarded by a successor.

But time is short and the 59-year-old could be tempted by a one-year extension to test whether the club

By **Simon Bird**

live up to their promise of at least £100m investment in new players over the next two seasons.

Benitez hinted yesterday that he wants to remain in England for family reasons.

He said: "For my wife, it is a relief to stay in England. My daughters, one is at uni, the other will go to uni."

"That will be the time to sit down and decide."



Van Gaal: Ole parking bus

FORMER Manchester United boss Louis van Gaal has accused Ole Gunnar Solskjaer of playing the same anti-football as Jose Mourinho.

The outspoken Dutchman, who has never forgiven United for the way they dumped him just 24 hours after winning the FA Cup in 2016, reckons Solskjaer has been parking the bus since succeeding Mourinho in December.

Van Gaal (left) did praise the Norwegian for lifting the gloom that

By **Simon Mullock**

descended on Old Trafford in the early part of the season. But he has now urged Solskjaer to change the playing style of the team – or risk becoming the latest United manager to fail.

He said: "When I look at the style of football, I have to say he has not changed it."

"Both Mourinho and Solskjaer are not afraid to play in a defensive way all the time."

2 PREMIER LEAGUE



COOL: Aleksandar Mitrovic scores the winner

Mitrovic keeps Parker on track for full-time job

FULHAM fans were the ones having fun in the sun with a conga as they finally celebrated their first away win of a sorry season.

And for Scott Parker, their caretaker boss desperate to land the job permanently, this second successive victory was a serious boost to those ambitions.

For starters, the result, secured by Aleksandar Mitrovic's second-half penalty, guarantees Fulham will not be relegated with the lowest away-points haul in Premier League history. They have now secured five points on their travels, overtaking Derby's three in 2007-08.

And the overall commitment of his doomed troops suggested the newest manager on the block is having a positive impact. Parker said: "The fans have been first class – and that's two wins in a row for them. I know it's only a small thing given the season they've had but, hopefully, it brings them closer to the team. Winning becomes a habit and we know we're going to need plenty of them next season."

Opposite number Eddie Howe was rather less appreciative of his team's efforts after his 500th game in management ended in defeat. This makes it five home outings without victory – their worst sequence in three years at this level.

Howe groaned: "That's hugely frustrating. 'What we have to look at is the amount of presentable chances we created

Bournemouth 0 Fulham 1

By Harry Pratt

and the fact we didn't score.

"After being so clinical last week at Brighton, it's difficult to work out."

Bournemouth produced two great opportunities, both involving the dangerous Ryan Fraser. The Scottish winger set up Josh King with a 15th-minute sitter but the Norwegian blazed over. Then Fraser went alone only to have a fierce drive brilliantly saved by Fulham stopper Sergio Rico.

Seven minutes after the break Fulham grabbed the deserved breakthrough – albeit via a soft penalty.

Cherries sub Jack Simpson was judged by rookie ref David Coote to have kicked Jean Michael Seri.

It was more careless than reckless but Fulham cared not as Mitrovic slammed in his 11th goal this term.

Howe's men were in dire need of

SUNDAY EXPRESS MATCH FACTS

BOURNEMOUTH: Boruc 6, Stanislas 6 (Simpson 22, 5), Mepham 6 (Mousset 76, 6), Ake 6, Cook 5, Brooks 8, Gosling 5, Lerma 6, Fraser 6, King 6 (Solanke 61, 5), Wilson 6.

FULHAM: Fulham: Rico 8, Odai 7, Ream 7, Le Marchand 7, Bryan 7, Chambers 8, Anguissa 7, Seri 7 (Christie 77, 7), Babel 7 (Ayite 86, 6), Sessegnon 7, Mitrovic 7.

REFEREE: D. Coote

ATTENDANCE: 10,511

OUR MAN OF THE MATCH

CALUM CHAMBERS: The on-loan Arsenal midfielder impressed, a tidy display.

inspiration and David Brooks nearly produced it with the slide pass of 2018-19. The pace of the Welshman's 30-yard through ball was perfect for Fraser but he fired straight at Rico.

PEP'S BIG GAMBLE FODEN ADDS ZEST

MANCHESTER CITY 1
Foden (5)
TOTTENHAM 0

From **Jim Holden** AT THE ETIHAD

HOW THEY STAND

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MAN CITY	34	28	2	4	86
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COMETH the hour, cometh the kid. When Pep Guardiola desperately needed victory in a big match he had the courage to pick teenager Phil Foden – and he was rewarded with a winner from the 18-year-old superstar of the future.

Foden scored within five minutes what proved the only goal of this showdown with Spurs – a strike which put City back on top of the Premier League table.

The kid hadn't featured in either of the intense Champions League quarter-final matches against Tottenham, and perhaps that was the masterstroke of Guardiola – to send in a fresh face with fresh legs and fresh problems for the opposition.

It worked. Some had reckoned City would be motivated by revenge after

their dramatic and contentious European exit against Spurs in midweek. Sure, that was the feeling in the crowd as Foden grabbed his early goal, but by the end the mood was profound relief.

The match became a battle of survival for City, protecting their precious lead.

The sound of the final whistle was relief to all. Both sets of players slumped to the ground, exhausted by effort and emotion.

They are heartily sick of each other – in the nicest possible way.

Nobody had expected Foden to be in the City team, perhaps not even the

EARLY STRIKE: Phil Foden
dives at full stretch to score the crucial goal



kid himself. It was a crucial fixture to be thrown into, but Guardiola has always declared enormous faith in the talented midfielder, and refused to send him elsewhere on loan.

Pep was sure he would need him, and this was the day. Foden repaid the faith of his manager with the early goal – a diving header from close range to convert a headed pass across goal by Sergio Agüero.

The England teenager clenched his fist in celebration in front of

the City fans behind goal. They responded with a roar of local pride to the anguish of Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino (left).

It was Foden's first goal in the Premier League – and few may prove more significant if the title is claimed next month. City's football was full of fire but they were also vulnerable in defence to the pace of Spurs on the counter. Goalkeeper Ederson made two saves in the opening quarter of an



Carpetbagger Barnes grabs point as

HARVEY BARNES was the unwanted house guest who put the stain on West Ham's great carpet unveiling.

The Hammers' new claret pitch surround was a greater source of interest than the game itself for large parts of the afternoon.

And first scorer Michail Antonio dropped to his hands and knees to give it a celebratory rub after his fine header opened the scoring.

Jamie Vardy then bagged an equaliser before West Ham sub

West Ham 2 Leicester 2

By Tom Hopkinson

Lucas Perez looked to have given the home side all three points.

However, fellow late arrival Barnes drilled home a low effort, his first goal for Leicester, in stoppage time to frustrate the home side and give Leicester a little boost in their hopes of a European finish.

But Hammers boss Manuel Pellegrini was upset with the officials again after replays showed

a Perez goal that was chalked off for offside should have stood.

At 3-1, it would have been hard to see Leicester finding a way back.

And Pellegrini, whose side were incensed after three big decisions went against them against Manchester United last week, added: "Unfortunately, we lost five points and maybe if we had the points we deserved in the last game against United and against Leicester, we are fighting for seventh in the table. It's part of the



EQUALISER: Barnes

PREMIER LEAGUE 3

PAYS OFF AS CLASSY TO CITY'S AVENGERS



hour from Son Heung-min and Christian Eriksen. It required brilliant recovery work from Aymeric Laporte to block another shot by Son as he raced towards goal.

The South Korean striker seems to crave the responsibility of leading Tottenham's attack in the absence of injured Harry Kane and he almost scored again on the brink of half-time.

This time it was a magical individual effort, twinkling feet on the halfway line to find a pocket of space followed by a fabulous burst of speed to whizz

past the City defence. Only a brave and good save from Ederson denied a goal.

After the goal Foden continued to impress; lively in tackle and possession of the ball.

But City's fluency wasn't helped by a first-half injury to Kevin De Bruyne, and the greatest threat came from jinking runs on the right by Bernardo Silva.

Chances were few after the break. Raheem Sterling had a goalbound shot stopped by the outstretched leg

of Spurs keeper Paulo Gazzaniga, and the tension mounted with City only 1-0 ahead.

Spurs were bound to have another opportunity, and it came to Lucas Moura, pouncing on City indecision.

He looked sure to score but Ederson produced one last outstanding save to give the reigning champions all three points.

They were an unlikely pair of heroes for City – Ederson and Foden. They will need a few more to win the final four matches and retain the title.

MATURE:
Phil Foden
consoles
injured Kevin
De Bruyne



UNBEATABLE: City's
Ederson denies
Spurs' Lucas Moura



THE OPENER: Deulofeu scores

DEULOFEU'S MAGIC SINKS SORRY TOWN

Huddersfield 1 Watford 2
By John Richardson

GERARD DEULOFEU proved that the FA Cup Final can wait as he provided more compelling evidence of his rising stature in the game.

The forward once rated as highly as Lionel Messi in his young days at Barcelona is at last starting to live up to some of that hype.

Yesterday he ran the show and added to his growing collection of spectacular goals.

A Wembley appearance against Manchester City next month was the last thing on his mind as he constantly tormented Championship-bound Huddersfield with his intelligent runs and eye for goal.

And everything came neatly together for the skilful Spaniard and Watford as early as the fifth minute. When Jonathan Hogg lost the ball Watford pounced with Will Hughes quick to spot Abdoulaye Doucoure's run into the box. Although he was halted in his tracks by a well-timed challenge by Terence Kongolo there was no escape for the

SUNDAY EXPRESS MATCH FACTS

TOWN: Lossel 6, Smith 7, Kongolo 6, Schindler 6, Durm 6, Hogg 5 (Daly 40.6), Bacuna 6, Mooy 7, Kachunga 6, Mbenza 6, Mouinie 6 (Grant 65, 6).
WATFORD: Foster 6, Femenia 6, Mariappa 7, Cathcart 6, Masina 6, Doucoure 7, Capoue 7, Hughes 8 (Navarro 90), Sema 6, Deulofeu 8 (Chalobah 82), Gray 6 (Success 71, 6).

REFEREE: R East **ATTENDANCE:** 23,957

OUR MAN OF THE MATCH GERARD DEULOFEU: Oozed class in whatever he did and added another two goals to his growing collection.

Terriers as Deulofeu seized the opportunity in his composed manner to squeeze a shot just inside the post.

The way he allowed himself time to sniff out the opening was reminiscent of the brilliant chipped goal which helped the Hornets come back from the dead in the dramatic FA Cup semi-final win over Wolves.

And he was super cool again with 11 minutes remaining to kill off the game. When Doucoure's fiercely driven shot was palmed out by Jonas Lossel, Deulofeu stroked it home effortlessly for an 11th goal of the season. Manager Javi Gracia said: "Gerard is scoring important goals for us, very good ones."

Substitute Karlan Grant's late strike at least brought Huddersfield level to the all-time lowest goals tally in the top flight of 20 held by Derby County during their disastrous 2007-08 campaign.

Pellegrini is again left to bemoan costly rulings

game but when you have two games in a row with such big mistakes it's difficult to accept."

Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers admitted his side got away with one, saying: "It looked a goal, we'd given the ball away cheaply, which was something we did throughout the first half."

And Rodgers preferred to focus on Harvey, 21, adding: "He's a young player who has come through the season, he's gone out and got his loans, got his

experience. Obviously in the first part of the season he was at West Brom and did very well, and it's a

SUNDAY EXPRESS MATCH FACTS

WEST HAM: Fabianski 6, Zabaleta 7, Balbuena 6, Ogbonna 6, Masuaku 7, Noble (Wilshere 88), Rice 6, Snodgrass 6 (Obiang 68, 6), Antonio 7, Armutovic 6 (Perez 77, 7), Anderson 6.
CITY: Schmeichel 6, Pereira 6, Evans 6, Maguire 6, Chilwell 5, Ndiadi 6, Tielenmans 6 (Mendy 90), Albrighton 6 (Barnes 63, 7), Maddison 6, Gray 6 (Iheanacho 83), Vardy 7.

REFEREE: L Probert **ATTENDANCE:** 59,960

OUR MAN OF THE MATCH MICHAEL ANTONIO: The most creative spark on the pitch and scored the Hammers opener.

big job coming up from the Championship up into the Premier League and he has adapted very well.

"He put a couple of great crosses into the box and then made a great run.

"It will give him a huge level of confidence going forward that he has that ability now at this level to get a goal."

As for the carpet, Rodgers was also impressed, laughing: "It was nice and spongy."



CALM: West Ham's Lucas Perez

4 FOOTBALL

PLAYING TOMORROW: EFL CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	
NORWICH	43	25	12	6	87	53	87	n Norwich have opened
SHEFF UTD	43	24	10	9	71	39	82	a five-point
LEEDS	43	25	7	11	70	44	82	lead over
WEST BROM	43	22	10	11	84	58	76	both Sheffield
ASTON VILLA	43	19	15	9	79	58	72	United and
MIDDLESBROUGH	43	18	13	12	45	36	67	Leeds.
BRISTOL CITY	42	18	12	12	56	47	66	Five points
DERBY	42	17	13	12	61	52	64	from three
PRESTON	43	16	12	15	64	59	60	games would
HULL	43	17	9	17	63	62	60	guarantee
SHEFF WED	43	15	15	13	54	57	60	their
SWANSEA	42	17	8	17	59	57	59	promotion
NOTTM FOREST	43	14	15	14	56	54	57	back to the
BLACKBURN	43	15	11	17	59	65	56	Premier
BRENTFORD	43	14	13	16	67	59	55	League for the
STOKE	43	11	19	13	41	48	52	first time since
QPR	43	13	9	21	51	67	48	relegation in
BIRMINGHAM	43	13	17	13	60	56	47	2016 – but a
READING	43	10	15	18	48	64	45	win, coupled
WIGAN	43	11	12	20	47	63	45	with either
MILLWALL	42	10	13	19	47	60	43	of their rivals
ROTHERHAM	43	8	16	19	49	76	40	dropping
BOLTON (R)	43	8	8	27	29	74	32	points, would
IPSWICH (R)	43	4	16	23	33	72	28	work too.

FIXTURES

3pm kick-off unless stated

Aston Villa v Millwall (1pm)
 Blackburn Rovers v Bolton
 Derby County v QPR
 Hull City v Sheffield United
 Ipswich Town v Swansea City
 Nottingham Forest v Middlesbrough
 Reading v West Bromwich Albion
 Rotherham v Birmingham City
 Sheffield Wednesday v Bristol City
 Stoke City v Norwich City
 Wigan Athletic v Preston North End
 Brentford v Leeds United (5.15pm)



WIN OR BUST FOR BIELSA

MARCELO BIELSA reacted to the panic on and off the pitch at Leeds and said: "We need to breathe."

United have waited for 15 years for a chance to get back into the Premier League but now automatic promotion is out of their hands.

After a freakish home defeat to

BRENTFORD v LEEDS

10-man Wigan they visit Brentford but, if Sheffield United win their next three, Leeds are in a play-off lottery.

Bielsa (above) added: "We have all the ingredients to win. But it is not about deserving things."

"You have to just win."

Parky's reign on knife-edge

BLACKBURN v BOLTON

PHIL PARKINSON is fed up of seeing Bolton's woes being highlighted in the media. He said: "For too long Bolton have been in the papers for the wrong reasons. That has got to end."

It wouldn't be too unexpected though if new owner Laurence Bassini pulled the plug on Parkinson's reign.

Cook: Wigan are on the up

WIGAN v PRESTON

WIGAN'S victory at title-chasing Leeds has given the side a major boost ahead of the derby with Preston.

Boss Paul Cook admitted: "To take four points from Norwich and Leeds is brilliant, they deserve so much credit and respect."

Four points from their last three games should ensure safety.

EFL LEAGUE ONE: Accrington 0 Luton 3

LEAGUE leaders Luton thrashed 10-man Accrington Stanley. A James Collins penalty and two second-half goals from Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu restored their five-point lead over Barnsley. Stanley keeper Dimitar Evtimov was sent off for giving away two penalties.



GUNNARSSON'S READY TO CAUSE

CARDIFF warrior Aron Gunnarsson has warned today's opponents Liverpool that his team will fight to the bitter end to stay in the Premier League.

Jürgen Klopp's men head to Cardiff knowing only victory will do in their race for the title and they are huge favourites to take three points. But a vital win over Brighton in

By Chris Hatherall

midweek has totally transformed the atmosphere in Neil Warnock's squad, just in time for Liverpool's arrival.

It was Cardiff's first three points since beating West Ham in March and only their third in the Premier League in 2019. But it's given them hope – and a pile of

confidence. "We have a chance and we will keep fighting to the very end now," said Icelandic midfielder Gunnarsson (left). "That's just how we are. We are all together and we're ready for Liverpool, no doubt."

"It was so important to get the three points against Brighton and now we believe we can stay up. "We fought hard to get into this

TOON LEAVE SOUTHAMPTON WITH WORK TO DO

PEREZ TOO HOT FOR STRUGGLING SAINTS



NEWCASTLE 3
 Perez (27, 31, 86)

SOUTHAMPTON 1
 Lemina (59)

From Simon Bird AT ST JAMES' PARK

AYOZE PEREZ grabbed a hat-trick to all but seal Newcastle's place in the Premier League next season. So Rafa Benitez is not the only Spanish hero on Tyneside.

Perez has transformed himself from terrace boo-boy to the club's leading scorer in a few months, and blew away Southampton with his finishing prowess.

Benitez is loved by the Geordies for re-establishing United back in the top flight and the comfort of mid-table. It is fast-developing players like Perez who have made all the difference on the pitch.

His late clincher, in the 86th minute, ensured another win at St James' Park, in a season that lurched from crisis in November, to comfort heading into May.

It allowed the home crowd to sing one of the loudest, and lustiest, chants of: "Rafa Benitez, we want you to stay..."

And with good reason.

Since the start of November, when Newcastle had not won a league game, they've racked up 11 victories in 24 games.

No one outside the top six has matched that form.

It has been a remarkable recovery from a point when they looked doomed. At that point it was Benitez who held the club together where there would have been crisis



THREE GLEE: Perez seals his treble to get the match ball (below)

with someone else at the helm. And his players who stuck together and kindled a recovery.

Perez is now club leading scorer on 11. He smashed a quick-fire double in four minutes to stun Southampton and put Newcastle in charge in the first half.

He opened the scoring on 27 minutes, with a cute finish,

SUNDAY EXPRESS MATCH FACTS

NEWCASTLE: Dulravka 7, Marquill 7, Schar 7 (Fernandez 69, 7), Lascelles 7, Dummett 7, Ki 6, Hayden 7 (Diame 77), Ritchie 7, Almiron 7 (Atsu 63, 7), Perez 8, Rondon 7.

SAINTS: Gunn 6, Bednarek 5, Yoshida 6, Stephens 5 (Lemina 45, 7), Bertrand 6, Redmond 6, Hojbjerg 6, Romeu 5, Sims 5 (Armstrong 45, 6), Ward-Prowse 6, Ings 6.

REFEREE: A Taylor ATTENDANCE: 52,191

OUR MAN OF THE MATCH AYOZE PEREZ – A stunning hat-trick from the oft-maligned striker who is finishing the season on a high.

squeezing inside the left post. He was released by a thundering tackle from Isaac Hayden and skipped across goal to finish.

His second, in the 31st minute, came from a brilliant left-wing breakaway by Salomon Rondon who played a perfect ball to the back post. Perez drifted behind the defence and hooked a leg in to bounce the ball over Angus Gunn.

His third came when Matt Ritchie headed a clearance from Jan Bednarek goalward, and Perez flicked it past Gunn.

Southampton were resurgent after the break and got one back just before the hour, Mario Lemina curling home from 20 yards after good work from Nathan Redmond.



It's Farke time as Norwich eye Premier League

DOWN at the Red Lion, just along the River Wensum, sales of celebration ale Up Up Up are brisk.

Three promotions in nine seasons is worth a limited-edition nectar, and although Norwich are not yet over the line, they are getting ready to roll out the barrel.

Nobody could accuse local

TOMORROW: STOKE v NORWICH

brewers of jumping the gun. The Canaries are going up, up, up – and the rest of the League is wondering how on earth they've done it.

But after a shaky start, Daniel Farke's kings of the late show – with eight goals in stoppage time this

season – could book their return to the Premier League tomorrow.

Farke (left) said: "It just says we never give up until the referee blows the whistle. It shows our character."

"We are in an amazing position: Five points clear with three games to go and it's up to us now. We have it in our hands."

FOOTBALL 5

UPSET IN BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL

league and we'll fight even harder to stay in this league."

That's a speech which should get the hairs on the back of Cardiff supporters' necks standing up and it leaves Liverpool in no doubt about the battle ahead.

Not that, playing against a Neil Warnock side, they could ever have doubted it.

"The gaffer will have us up for

it, that's for certain," Gunnarsson said. "But we are more than up for it anyway. We have confidence

BOTTOM SIX										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
BURNLEY	34	11	6	17	42	60	39			
SOUTH'TON	34	9	9	16	40	57	36			
BRIGHTON	34	9	7	18	32	53	34			
CARDIFF	34	9	4	21	30	63	31			
FULHAM	35	6	5	24	33	76	23			
HUDD'FIELD	35	3	5	27	20	69	14			

after the result in midweek and the players are buzzing. We believe in each other.

"I can promise Liverpool the whole place will be rocking – our fans will be incredible. And I'm looking forward to it.

"We'll have to have an absolutely 100 per cent game if we are going to get anything. If we keep fighting for each other, you never know."



FIGHT: Warnock

TO AVOID DROP AS BRIGHTON GRAB VITAL POINT

WOLVES 0
BRIGHTON.....0
From Neil Moxley AT MOLINEUX

SHUT-OUT JOY FOR HUGHTON

CHRIS HUGHTON departed Molineux with chants of 'Boring, boring' ringing in his ears. And the Seagulls chief didn't give two hoots.

Brighton's boss was serenaded by the South Bank after 90 minutes in which striker Glenn Murray established his credentials as the patron saint of chasing lost causes.

Criticism from the stands was unfair perhaps, given the visitors' position – fighting with Cardiff for the right to stay in the division – but after shipping 10 goals in their last three outings in the Premier League it was difficult to blame Hughton for his approach.

Asked about Molineux's reaction, he said: "All that's important in the next four games is getting enough points to push us over the line.

"We knew this would be difficult. We had to show a work ethic and determination – and if we had showed anything less, we wouldn't have got anything.

"We're lacking confidence in front of goal and a bit of creativity. However, if we can show that type of spirit, we at least give ourselves a chance because we are off the back of two very disappointing results.

"The reaction out there showed we are not such a bad team, after all. It feels like a really good point for us today."

Brighton still needed the woodwork to come to their rescue twice and keeper Matt Ryan also pulled off a couple of decent stops.

Wolves' Diogo Jota was the man most likely to break the deadlock. Midfielder Ruben Neves – given licence to spray passes all over – saw his shot deflected into his colleague's path as the interval approached.

It arrived on the half-volley and the former Atletico Madrid man's



SO CLOSE: Diogo Jota hits the post and (right) holds his head in disbelief

shot looped up and into the crossbar. Jota was again denied with 15 minutes remaining when he glanced a header goalwards. This time, the ball struck the upright.

Wolves' boss Nuno Espirito Santo said: "Our fans were pushing and the boys were trying. They tried everything."

SUNDAY EXPRESS MATCH FACTS

WOLVES: Patricio 6, Bennett 6, Coady 7, Boly 6, Doherty 6 (Traore 84), Neves 7, Mouzino 6, Gibbs-White 6, Dendoncker 7, 2, 5 Jonny 5, (Vinegar 67, 6) Jota 8, Jimenez 6.

BRIGHTON: Ryan 7, Bruno 6, (Bernardo 70, 6) Duffy 7, Dunk 7, Bong 7, Stephens 6, Gross 6, Propper 5, (Kayal 10, 5) March 6, Izquierdo 5, Murray 6.

REFEREE: C Pawson ATTENDANCE: 31,096

OUR MAN OF THE MATCH: DIEGO JOTA – Always looked the man most likely to make a difference in this stalemate.

LAMBERT PLEDGE

TOMORROW: IPSWICH v SWANSEA

IPSWICH boss Paul Lambert has vowed his relegated side will not succumb to another heavy defeat in the manner of Friday's 4-0 reverse at Preston.

He said: "I'm not going to sugar-coat it. That won't happen again. We were outplayed in every aspect."



Smith's praise for injured Abraham

HIS injured shoulder in a sling and the pain yet to subside, Tammy Abraham celebrated helping to create club history at Aston Villa.

Abraham (left) had flung himself at a cross to head home his 25th goal of the season. His bravery sealed a 2-0 win at Bolton which made it nine wins on the spin for

TOMORROW: ASTON V v MILLWALL

Dean Smith's side. The last time that happened was back in 1910.

At Villa Park against Millwall, they can make it a perfect 10 of wins.

Smith said of the crocked Abraham: "You have to give him great credit for reaching 25 goals."

PLAYING TOMORROW: EFL CHAMPIONSHIP



LAMPS: WE NEED WINS

FRANK LAMPARD insists that Derby are still in with a chance of making the play-offs despite dropping points at Birmingham on Friday.

"It was a point won as Birmingham is a tough place to visit," said former Chelsea midfielder Lamps (above). "We have a game in hand. We

DERBY v QPR

have to play at Bristol City and Swansea but it is becoming more critical as we need to win games.

"This Championship is so difficult to predict as four games can mean such a lot.

"We have to remain positive and focus on QPR."



DUFFY EYES PROMOTION

MARK DUFFY has no doubts Sheffield United have the heart and desire to return to the Premier League.

The Blades winger (above) bagged a fine goal as the South Yorkshire club impressed by beating Nottingham Forest on Friday.

And with arch-rivals Leeds United having

HULL v SHEFF UTD

surprisingly slipped up with a shock 2-1 home loss to ten-man Wigan, Chris Wilder's ambitious team are now in second place.

Duffy, ahead of tomorrow's clash at Hull, said: "We've got the fight in us and we've got to stand up now."

READING v WEST BROMWICH ALBION

IN-FORM Dwight Gayle can help secure West Brom's place in the play-offs with victory at Reading tomorrow.

Gayle hit two in the Baggies' 3-2 victory over Hull on Friday, leaving his side needing three points to make sure of a top-six spot.

Boss Jimmy Shan said: "His scoring record this season has been fantastic."



JOHNSON'S TOP-SIX GOAL

BRISTOL CITY boss Lee Johnson shrugged off his side's tough run-in as they chase the final play-off spot.

After dropping two points at home to Reading on Friday, City are a point behind Middlesbrough with a game in hand.

Johnson (above), ahead of tomorrow's match at Sheffield

SHEFF W v BRISTOL C

Wednesday, said: "Three of our last four games are away and there will be people eager to write us off. I don't mind that. Our form on our travels has been good and we are playing without fear."

City have a big doubt over midfielder Korey Smith.

Warne: Nine points target

ROTHERHAM v BIRMINGHAM

ROTHERHAM boss Paul Warne insists his struggling Millers can still stave off the threat of relegation.

Trailing Millwall by three points having played a game more, Warne said: "We have to try to win the three games we have left. There's no reason why we can't do that."

Pulis salutes Boro's braves

NOTT M FOREST v MIDDLESBROUGH

BORO look set for a play-off spot as they head to Forest on the back of a three-game winning run.

Boss Tony Pulis said: "To have five missing from the backline we started the season with, it takes a lot of courage to go out and play the way they played against Stoke on Friday."

6 PREMIER LEAGUE

Homecoming for sons of Ajax who grew with Spurs

CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN won his spurs long ago in north London as the creative genius at the heart of Tottenham's rise and rise to the brink of a Champions League Final.

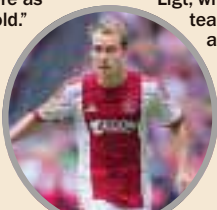
His football education, though, was in Amsterdam – and it is a bittersweet irony his boyhood club Ajax now stand in the way of ultimate club glory.

It is the same for Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Davinson Sanchez as the quartet of Ajax old boys at Spurs prepare for the biggest match of their careers.

"I had a wonderful time there," says Eriksen, "and it will be good to go back to the Arena in the semi-final."

Alderweireld is equally enthused: "The Ajax boys are coming home," he says. "That's what it feels like. I started there as a 15-year-old."

Eriksen was 16 when he left his native Denmark for a club that has the most famous football



QUALITY: Eriksen at Ajax

academy in Europe and has become an endless talent factory.

"I went to Ajax because of their reputation for giving players a good football education," he says. "I knew I'd have a chance to play in the first team quickly. If you're good enough there it doesn't matter how old you are."

Vertonghen was 19 and Sanchez 20 when they joined Ajax for their instruction in the finer arts of the game, and it is no coincidence that Tottenham have so often acquired Ajax talent. Under the maestro management of Mauricio Pochettino, they want footballers comfortable on the ball and able to play stylish, intelligent, passing football.

It is the philosophy of the school of Johan Cruyff, whose influence on the modern game is so profound and

By **Jim Holden**

after whom the Arena stadium in Amsterdam is now named.

Barcelona, semi-final opponents of Liverpool, have been constructed in the Cruyff mould, as have Manchester City, who lost in such dramatic fashion in the quarter-finals against Spurs on Wednesday.

All four clubs left in the Champions League play with freedom and adventure and risk – but the most inspirational of all this season are Ajax.

They have been astounding in successive rounds, not only winning away to Real Madrid and Juventus but completely outplaying and overpowering their celebrated opponents.

The winner against Juventus was scored by teenage central defender Matthijs de Ligt, who is also team skipper at the age of 19 – the youngest captain in the history of the Champions League.

At the heart of midfield is Frenkie de Jong, a 21-year-old who will move to Barcelona in the summer.

They score a mountain of goals – 155 in all competitions so far this season, with 106 in just 30 league games in Holland.

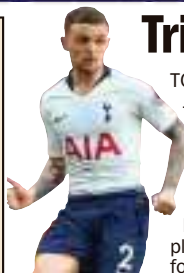
Overseeing the dynamic young side is manager Erik ten Hag, who has a photo of Cruyff on his wall.

And it is the eternal wisdom of Cruyff whose words bear endless repetition.

"There is no better medal than being acclaimed for your style," he said.

"Make it special for you and everyone watching."

"For the good of football we need teams of invention, attacking ideas and style to emerge. Even if they don't win, they will inspire footballers of all ages everywhere. That is the greatest reward."



Trippier for sale in summer clearout

TOTTENHAM are set to demand £40million for England right-back Kieran Trippier, who could be one of several departures from the north London club this summer.

Trippier (left), a product of the Manchester City academy, has been made available as Tottenham plan a squad clearout to make room for new signings. Manchester United

By **Neil Fissler**

and Italian outfit Napoli are both interested in a player who has helped Tottenham to the Champions League semi-finals and third place in the Premier League.

Trippier, 28, was also a part of the England side that reached the World Cup semi-finals last year.

INTER MILAN have opened talks with Manchester City over right-back Danilo. The Brazilian has made only nine appearances for Pep Guardiola's side this season and is looking to leave the Etihad in the summer.

Inter have been told that City want to recoup the £26million they paid Real Madrid for the 27-year-old in 2017.

The Italian giants are unlikely to agree such a fee and would struggle to meet Danilo's personal demands.

SOLSKJAER SPEAKS OUT: THERE'S A HUGE TASK AHEAD

I'LL NEED YEARS TO MAKE UNITED GREAT AGAIN

NO QUICK FIX: Solskjaer will not be looking to make wholesale summer changes

By **Steve Bates**

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER has admitted it could take years to rebuild Manchester United.

He warned fans not to expect a huge turnover of players this summer as he needs "a few" transfer windows to sort out the mess he inherited.

Solskjaer also revealed he will give some stars one more chance in pre-season as he looks to embed a style of play to close the gap on Manchester City, Liverpool and Tottenham.

Ahead of today's key trip to Everton and Wednesday's Manchester derby, it's clear the 3-0 defeat in Barcelona had a sobering effect on Solskjaer.

And he admitted United's team faces a full-scale rebuild lasting years instead of a few minor tweaks.

The manager said: "We were sixth when I came in and we are still sixth. But the last 16 or 17 games have shown that we have

the players to be better than sixth. I think only City have got a better average points-wise since I came in.

"But it is a rebuild. We know it's going to take a few windows – and we're not going to get six or seven players in. I don't

think you can expect six new players. That isn't in any club's wishes and I don't think any manager would like that kind of change. I know there won't be six players coming in.

"Any new player has to be the right one, the right fit. We can't just take players in because we need a body. It's about culture as well, not just buying players. They have to get the culture where players take ownership themselves. That's the type of player I like.

"I have been impressed by many of them here – not all but a lot of them. So I think the players deserve the chance to come in for pre-season and show what they're capable of.

"Are they fit and hungry enough? Do they want this enough? Do they want to give everything to the team or do they think only about themselves?"

"We know it is not a quick fix. We know where we were when we came in. It's not like overnight you ask players to do things completely different.

"When I came there was an understanding that we had to get United's DNA back into the club, the team and the players."



Rash wage demand may rule out Barcelona move

MARCUS RASHFORD is set to be priced out of a move to Barcelona because they feel he is too expensive to lure from Manchester United.

Rashford, 21, is stalling on a new contract at Old Trafford. His current deal runs out in 2020 but United have the option to extend it by 12 months.

The England star is believed to want more than £200,000 a

EXCLUSIVE
By **Neil Fissler**

week to commit himself to United and that could also be too much for the Spanish giants.

United would demand a transfer fee of around £150million and Barca bosses feel they can get better value for money elsewhere.



PRICE: Rashford

Ole salutes old pal Kidd ahead of vital derby duel

MANCHESTER UNITED boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has delivered a glowing tribute to Brian Kidd ahead of Wednesday's Manchester derby.

The pair share a special link, having both scored in European Cup Finals 31 years apart.

Manchester City coach Kidd, 69, was Sir Alex Ferguson's assistant at United when Solskjaer arrived at Old Trafford in 1996. Solskjaer said: "He

By **Steve Bates**

was such a positive coach. He trusted us and I really enjoyed his coaching sessions.

"It's great to see he is still going as a coach at City under Pep Guardiola.

"Not many have a CV like his. I don't think he has any enemies."



FOOTBALL 7



Beckham targets Moreno for Miami

DAVID BECKHAM is ready to make Mexico international Hector Moreno the first major signing for his USA club Inter Miami.

Capped 96 times for his country, the 31-year-old Real Sociedad star (left) is in advanced talks to move to Florida. The former PSV Eindhoven and Roma central defender also fits the plan of signing Hispanic players

By **John Richardson**

to attract Miami's vast community of Latin Americans.

Colombia international Radamel Falcao, the former Manchester United and Chelsea striker, is also being encouraged to leave Monaco and join Beckham's MLS franchise, which kicks off next year.



VOW: Bacuna

DOUBLE TROUBLE

By **Harry Pratt**

LEANDRO BACUNA is determined to avoid a family relegation double.

The Cardiff midfielder, whose brother Juninho has been demoted to the Championship with Huddersfield, said: "Mum has been on saying she doesn't want two relegations in one season. That would not be good."

THE TITLE FIGHT: LEAGUE MATTERS MOST FOR LAWRENSON

SQUAD REMINDS LAWRO OF THE TOP KOP DAYS

MARK LAWRENSON knows very well what it's like to play in a Liverpool side packed with attacking talent.

The former Anfield star would lift up his head and see Ian Rush, Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness making runs ahead of him. That trio played a major role in the success the Reds enjoyed in the early to mid-80s.

And when Lawrenson sees Mo Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino working their magic today, he sees similarities between them and his old mates.

He said: "This team reminds me of the Liverpool teams I played in because there were big personalities. There are big personalities in the current team. The goalkeeper, Alisson, is a big personality, so is Virgil van Dijk and the front three – we had Souness, Kenny and Rushy."

"Teams have leaders and the front three for Liverpool now are all leaders. Week in, week out their performances have been up there and they play for each other as well."

"Strikers always love to score, but with those three if someone is in a better position they play them in. The other outfield players must love them because they work their socks off coming back. It must be really appreciated how good they are."

Lawrenson won five league titles

By **Tom Hopkinson**

with Liverpool and the European Cup. But since the last of his old Division One crowns, in 1987-88, the club have won the league just once. Such is the desire to end the 29-year wait that Lawrenson admits even a Champions League triumph this season wouldn't fully make up for the sadness Liverpool will feel if they miss out on the title.

He added: "If they won the Champions League but didn't win the Premier League there would still be an empty feeling because they could finish with 97 points."

Liverpool can keep the pressure on Manchester City with victory at Cardiff today. Lawrenson said: "I love the fact Cardiff have something to play for. They need the points to stay up, although I don't think Neil Warnock teams ever just sit in. It's not in his

DNA. While people have said Liverpool haven't been playing well in the last seven or eight games, it doesn't matter a jot because they just win."

"At this stage of a season there are two important things: winning... and winning."

Mark Lawrenson (left) was speaking exclusively to Paddy Power News. To read more, visit news.paddypower.com



STRONG: Dalglish and Rush



TWO WILLING WORKERS
Sadio Mane
(above left)
and Mo Salah

CARDIFF v LIVERPOOL
TODAY:
4PM

ARSENAL v CRYSTAL P
TODAY: 4PM

HODGSON'S SO PROUD OF PALACE JOB

By **Tony Stenson**

ROY HODGSON says saving Crystal Palace from freefall is one of his greatest achievements in football.

Brought in after Palace's horror start to last season under Frank De Boer, who was sacked after just five games, Hodgson steadied what looked to be a sinking ship as the Eagles finished 11th.

They are just five points shy of last term's tally with four games remaining, having made another solid showing this season.

And as they take on Arsenal today, former England boss and 2010 LMA Manager of the Year Hodgson (above) said: "How do I rate this in my career? I am very proud of it, very happy with it."

"It has been a journey I embarked on knowing it would be tough but I still feel there is a lot of work to do. "There are measures we need to look into. The last two years have been a struggle. I would like to believe the years ahead would be less of a struggle."



ARSENAL AND PALACE DRAW
10-3

CORAL

UNAI FEAR AS EAGLES DARE

By **Harry Pratt**

ARSENAL boss Unai Emery has warned his Arsenal stars they need to be at their best to topple Crystal Palace.

The Gunners are aiming for their 11th home league win on the bounce and a top-four finish when they entertain the Eagles this afternoon.

But Palace have collected an impressive 23 points away from Selhurst Park this term. Throw in the fact that they ended Arsenal's 14-game winning streak in all competitions earlier in the campaign and it is easy to see why Emery (right) is guarding against complacency.

The Spanish boss, fresh from guiding the Gunners into the Europa League semi-finals, said: "Palace have a big coach with big experience. They have big players who are in form. Respect to them."

"And I think they have had some very good performances away from home. For example, they won at Manchester City."



Jurgen's joy if Van Dijk claims PFA prize



LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp has admitted that he will be sad if defender Virgil van Dijk doesn't win the PFA's Player of the Year award.

The announcement will be made a week from now at the PFA's gala dinner in London, with £75million Kop star Van Dijk (left) battling for the crown with Manchester City rival Raheem Sterling. The voting has closed for

By **Steve Bates**

the PFA awards and Klopp (right) insists he'll be gutted if Van Dijk, the world's most expensive defender, doesn't win the honour after his impact on Liverpool's title bid.

Klopp said: "Of course I would be sad because Virgil has had an outstanding season but Raheem would also deserve it of course. Last season it was

Kevin De Bruyne and Mo Salah. What a season it was for both of them – unbelievable."

"Mo won it and we were happy about that, but not because Kevin De Bruyne lost it because he would have deserved it as well."

"That is the case again this year but obviously I would be really happy for Virgil if he could win it."



RACIAL ABUSE 'WILL LEAD TO WALK-OFFS'

GARY BENNETT fears it is only a matter of time before players walk off the pitch in the face of racist abuse.

The former Sunderland captain, a trailblazing black player of the 1980s and 90s, is an ambassador of the Show Racism the Red Card charity.

Bennett, 57, said: "Opinion is split. If they're not going to deal with the problem it's going to continue. You will end up with somebody or a team walking off."

8 SPORT



VICTORY: Johanna Konta

KONTA BEATS JITTERS BUT GB ARE PEGGED BACK

JOHANNA KONTA battled to a 10th consecutive Fed Cup singles victory to give Great Britain the early advantage over Kazakhstan, who hit back to end the day at 1-1 in their World Group II play-off in London.

Konta lost five of the first six games to 107th-ranked Zarina Diyas but used her

TENNIS

power advantage to turn the match around for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 win at Copper Box.

That result did not silence a band of Kazakh fans, including drummers and a trombonist. The British team complained several times about the noise. Having

trailed 5-1 and looking nervous, Konta fought back to 5-4 before Diyas clinched the opening set. The British No1 saved two crucial break points in the first game of the second set and opened up a 5-0 lead before clinching the set and then taking the third.

Konta said: "I played a very tough opponent but

nothing's easy in Fed Cup."

However, Katie Boulter then suffered a 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 defeat to Yulia Putintseva.

The 22-year-old had only made her singles debut in the regional group in February and won all four matches but found the 38th-ranked Putintseva a big step-up in class.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Gosden ace out

RACING

UNBEATEN colt Too Darn Hot was last night ruled out of the Qipco 2000 Guineas.

He had been a warm ante-post favourite for the first Classic of the season at Newmarket on Saturday week.

Too Darn Hot won all four of his starts in 2018 but missed last weekend's Greenham at Newbury with a splint problem.

Trainer John Gosden said he would not have enough time to prepare Andrew Lloyd Webber's colt for the Guineas.

He said: "Although he has shown great improvement in the last nine days, Too Darn Hot will not be ready in time to run."

Taz's scorcher

SUPERBIKES

TAZ MACKENZIE scorched to the fastest-ever lap of the Silverstone National circuit to take his first British Superbike Championship pole.

The tiny McAMS Yamaha rider saw off a challenge from team-mate Jason O'Halloran and ex-MotoGP star Scott Redding to clock 53.549secs in the blistering Northamptonshire heat.

Mackenzie, in just his second BSB season, was surprised to beat O'Halloran and said: "I didn't expect that because I've been struggling a little bit."

Rocket Ronaldo

FOOTBALL

CRISTIANO RONALDO became the first player to win the Premier League, La Liga and Serie A as Juventus clinched their eighth straight Italian league title with victory over Fiorentina.

Juve, who failed at the first attempt with a 2-1 loss at SPAL last week, needed only a point but went behind when Nikola Milenkovic fired in an early opener. Alex Sandro levelled with a header and victory was sealed after the break when Pezzella put Ronaldo's cross into his own net.

Juventus have won every Italian league title since moving to the Allianz Stadium in 2011.

WHY JOFRA IS A MUST TO BATTLE THE WORLD

By Gary Fitzgerald

ENGLAND cricket bosses must not be worried about upsetting established players and pick a team strong enough to lift the World Cup.

Former Test star Mark Butcher insists the selectors must be strong and resolute, and must not bend to internal squad pressures.

That's why Butcher is backing Jofra Archer to shine in next month's ODIs and force the selectors to include him in their final 15-man World Cup squad.

Barbados-born Archer, 24, missed out on the preliminary squad but was named in the 17-man party for the warm-ups against Ireland and Pakistan.

His selection and potential to snatch one of the World Cup spots has upset a few of the regular team members, with bowler Chris Woakes insisting it would be "morally wrong" to pick Archer, who has just qualified to play for his adopted country.

But for Butcher, Sussex all-rounder Archer, who has taken the IPL by storm, could be the secret weapon on home soil.

He said: "For me, if you are picking an England World Cup 15 he gets in it.

"Whether he would get in the first-choice 11 right now is debatable. But when you are trying to win a tournament with lots of games coming quickly, you

MORAL DILEMMA:

Jofra Archer's possible World Cup selection has been challenged as 'morally wrong'

need strength in depth. You need a bowler who can take the place of any one of your first-choice players.

"Jofra Archer is the only one who can do that. He can bowl with the new ball. He can take wickets in the middle of an innings and he can bowl at the death.

"The other candidates are all

specialists. This kid can do all three. It was an odd choice of words from Chris (Woakes).

"Of course all those players who have been in the squad a while are going to back one another but there are no morals about it.

"You pick the best players to give England the best ever chance to win their first World Cup – that's the only criteria."

READ JIM HOLDEN: P12



ARCHER ADMIRER: Butcher

Hunt on for Surrey

ALEC STEWART believes the competition has never been more fierce as Surrey bid for back-to-back County Championship titles.

The club's director of cricket said: "The hunters are now the hunted. We know we are in the sights of others and they will raise their game to beat us. That's the challenge that we need to meet."

PRIZE SPORTSWORD: WIN TICKETS TO A SKY BET EFL MATCH OF YOUR CHOICE

Solve our new prize Sportsword and win two tickets to a Sky Bet EFL game, thanks to our friends at Sky Bet, title sponsor of the EFL. For a free £5 bet every week, become a member of the Sky Bet Club. Sign up at www.skybet.com. To enter, email your answers plus your name, address and telephone number, PLUS the club you would like tickets for, to: sport.sunday@express.co.uk. Or write your answers and post them in to: SKY BET PRIZE SPORTSWORD, Sunday Express Sport, 20 SCEPTRE COURT, BAMBER BRIDGE, PRESTON, PR5 6AW.

Editor's decision is final. Usual Express rules apply. Entries close on Wednesday, April 24, at noon. Winner gets two Sky Bet EFL tickets for the team they choose. Tickets to be picked up at the stadium before the game. No transport or accommodation provided. All winners subject to EFL security checks.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS: ACROSS: 5 Joe Joyce. 7 Hoey. 8 Meite. 9 Florida. 10 Darren Way. 11 Bocanegra. 14 Knowles. 15 Gould. 17 Ashe. 18 Panthers. DOWN: 1 Pope. 2 Yellow. 3 Cherry. 4 Mendieta. 6 Jeter. 10 Devonish. 11 Bowyer. 12 Crespo. 13 Gooch. 16 Lara. **SPORTSWORD:** GATESHEAD (FC) **LAST WEEK'S WINNER:** Congratulations to Douglas Parish, of Rowley Regis, who completed our Sportsword to win two tickets to see West Brom.

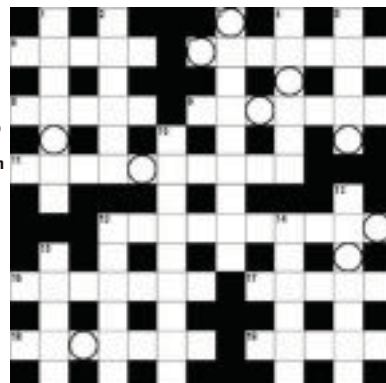
In order to complete our Sportsword, arrange the letters that fall in the circled squares into the surname of an F1 World Drivers' Championship winner.

ACROSS.

- Mark, 2014, 2016 and 2017 World Snooker Championship winner (5).
- Fulham and Scotland midfielder cooked any rice (7).
- Dame, Senegal and Copenhagen striker at Hull in 2015 (5).
- Watford and former Alaves defender redistributed main fee (7).
- Flight of Texan doves for former Chelsea, QPR and Manchester United manager (4,6).
- Ivory Coast and Sunderland defender on loan at Strasbourg cultivated Minoan leek (6,4).
- 2018-19 National League club managed by Neil Smith from 2016 (7).
- Denis, Ireland and Munster Rugby back-rower who retired in 2012 (5).
- 2018-19 Premier League club managed by Sean Dyche from 2012 (7).
- Capable of true flight? Can hang upside down? You're in the England 1998 World Cup squad! (5).

DOWN.

- Strongly want pig meat, like 1977-82 Nottingham Forest defender (7).
- George, 1994-98 Northern Ireland striker at St Johnstone from 1994-2001 (6).
- Confused, thine zeal hath created 2016 Ryder Cup host club (9).
- Manoeuvres are fun for former Bath and Edinburgh rugby player (6).
- Mike, Stoke City defender awarded four England caps in 1974 (5).
- Thomas, Belgium and Barcelona defender (9).
- Former Japan and West Brom midfielder joined Ford Cortina motor dealership (7).
- Greg, US cyclist; 1986, 1989 and 1990 Tour de France winner (6).
- Kevin, England football manager from 1999 to 2000 (6).
- 1976-86 New Zealand Test cricketer found reading on the Metro, upstairs (5).



RUGBY UNION 9



TRYSCORER: Chris Ashton

FINAL AGONY FOR SALE AS FRENCH HOLD ON

SALE SHARKS fell short in their bid to reach the European Challenge Cup final in France.

A penalty try and a Chris Ashton effort meant Sale were well in the contest following an eventful first half, in which the hosts also grabbed a penalty try, while Kini Murimurivalu added a second French effort. Both

EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP La Rochelle 24 Sale 20

teams were reduced to 14 men in the opening 40 minutes but Gregory Alldritt's try for La Rochelle early in the second half proved crucial.

All Sale could manage in the second half was a penalty from Alan MacGinty.

Sale were soon ahead as a maul was collapsed illegally by La Rochelle's Victor Vito, and the referee sinbinned the New Zealander and awarded a penalty try.

Ihaia West kicked a penalty, matched by MacGinty, but La Rochelle hit back with a second penalty try. Another La Rochelle score followed from

Murimurivalu. West converted but Ashton hacked a loose ball on to score and MacGinty converted to make it 17-17.

Alldritt grabbed the first score of the second half and the fly-half also added the two points. MacGinty kicked a penalty to set up a grandstand final 10 minutes but La Rochelle held on.

Sexton back for Leinster clash

RUGBY UNION

STUART LANCASTER'S quest to land back-to-back European Cups has been boosted by the return of Johnny Sexton.

The World Rugby player of 2018 has not played for Leinster this year due to injury but is named as captain for the Champions Cup semi-final against Toulouse today. Coach Lancaster said: "Everything's on the line in a semi-final. We found that two years ago when we lost against Clermont."

Take Care with online opinion

RUGBY UNION

DANNY CARE has urged his England pals and other top stars to stop potentially risking their careers by making controversial comments on social media.

The Harlequins scrum-half believes the Israel Folau storm, which has also landed Billy Vunipola in trouble, must be a warning to others.

Care said: "The message is if you are a famous rugby player just keep your views to yourself."

Home victory is big spur for Mo

ATHLETICS

MO FARAH takes on world record holder Eliud Kipchoge at next Sunday's London Marathon in what could be an Olympic dress rehearsal.

Farah comes into the race after winning the Chicago Marathon in his last 26.2-mile outing in the autumn.

But he is up against a Kenyan who has won three of the last four London races.

Farah said: "Eliud is a tough athlete but I don't want to run badly in my home town."

Ortiz tops list to fight Joshua

BOXING

ANTHONY JOSHUA is set to announce Jarrell Miller's replacement as his next opponent on Tuesday, with Luis Ortiz his preferred option ahead of Michael Hunter.

The IBF, WBA and WBO heavyweight king's team have been working from a shortlist of eight and expect to finalise the challenger by tomorrow night.

For last night's Amir Khan action go to express.co.uk/sport

BITTER END TO A DAY OF TRIUMPH FOR VUNIPOLA

SARACENS 32
MUNSTER 16

From **Alex Spink** AT THE RICOH ARENA

BILLYVUNIPOLA was confronted on the pitch by a furious fan after his try sent Saracens back to the Champions Cup final.

The England star had been jeered throughout a fierce contest in the wake of his support of homophobic comments made by fallen Aussie star Israel Folau.

Although he responded with a man-of-the-match performance, culminating in the decisive try seven minutes from time, an irate supporter had the final word.

As Vunipola began a lap of honour with team-mates in front of the 16,235 crowd, the fan wearing a Munster shirt invaded the pitch unopposed and gesticulated angrily at the No8.

A spokesman for the tournament organisers said: "EPCR does not condone the entry of a spectator to the field of play."

"Following the regrettable incident, the spectator in question is currently being detained by the stadium authorities."

It was a sour end to a joyful day for the north Londoners, who reached European rugby's showpiece for the third time in four years and will play either Leinster or Toulouse at Newcastle's St James' Park on May 11.

Owen Farrell kicked 22 points in a masterful response to those who had caned him for his part in England's Six Nations collapse against Scotland.

And there was a try for flanker



CONFRONTATION: Vunipola's lap of honour is interrupted by a fan protesting about his controversial tweet

Michael Rhodes as the two-time champs produced a devastating third quarter to turn a 12-9 lead into a commanding 25-9 scoreline.

But inevitably Vunipola, on his 100th appearance for the club, was focus of attention as at least three fans turned up with Gay Pride flags.

"Behind closed doors I felt a lot of love, a lot of kindness shown to me," said the No8, who had caused widespread anger by a tweet which

included the words: 'Man was made for woman to procreate that was the goal no?'

"From my point of view, I believe what I believe in. There was no intention to hurt anyone. That was never my intention and I am just glad to play."

Vunipola responded to the scrutiny by leading Saracens' assault on the gain line with 22 carries in a power-packed display.

"Billy was outstanding and so were all of his team-mates," said team boss Mark McCall.

For Munster there was only frustration.

Their coach Johan van Graan conceded: "We came here to win and got beaten by a better side on the day."

SARACENS: Tries: Rhodes, B Vunipola; **Pens:** Farrell 6; **Cons:** Farrell 2; **MUNSTER: Try:** Sweetnam; **Pens:** Bleyendaal 2, Murray; **Cons:** Hanrahan.



BOOTIFUL: Owen Farrell



SCORER: Vunipola's try

ROCKET: I COULD BE THE GREATEST - LIKE MESSI

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN believes it is hard to argue that he is not the best player of all time.

The Rocket heads to this year's World Championship in Sheffield, which started yesterday, gunning for a sixth world title.

O'Sullivan has broken every major record but

SNOOKER

By **Neil Goulding**

Stephen Hendry's haul of seven world crowns still eludes the Chigwell potter, who said: "It would be hard to argue against me being the greatest ever."

"I guess you've got to go by the records really when

you're talking about the greatest ever. There's the debate whether it's me or Hendry.

"Hendry's got seven world titles and I have five but I seem to have every other record. It's like saying, 'is Lionel Messi not the greatest footballer who's ever lived because he hasn't

won the World Cup?' Messi is the greatest I've ever seen."

Defending champion Mark Williams branded World Snooker "pathetic" after son Kian was denied access to his Crucible dressing room. Williams had already handed out both the backstage passes players are allocated.



DEBATE: O'Sullivan

BOURNEMOUTH (0) ...0 FULHAM (0).....1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
--	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	-----

Championship table on Pullout P4.

Scottish Premiership Scottish League One

Att: 2,971

Partick.....	33	10	7	16	38	50	37	15 Norwich v Blackburn (7.30).....	1
Falkirk.....	34	8	11	15	34	45	35	16 Preston North End v Sheff Wed.....	1

RESULT	L	A	L	L	L	A	H	H	SD	D	V	A	A	H	H	L	H
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DIVIDENDS — With a split pools weekend, the dividend forecast will be announced later today. No claims required for half-times.

WALSALL	43	11	10	22	46	70	-24	4
BRADFORD	43	10	6	27	45	74	-29	3

YEovil	42	9	10	23	38	62	-24	3
NOTTS COUNTY	43	8	13	22	44	79	-35	3

31 Sunderland v Ports

(Kick-off 3pm unless stated) | Norwich, Wigan v Preston. **League**

1.3 X GUIDE **31 Sunderland v Portsmouth X**

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	L	L	L	2	1	2	L	L	L
H	A	H	H	H	A	A	A	H	H	H	A	I	I	I	V	A	V	I	I	I

Forecast: 6-4 Little did you know, 2 Constitutional, 5 Mystic Knight, 16 Ambyfae irvine, 12 Hollaback Girl, 16 Mums birth day girl.

2018: Major Peirson 9-8, J F Egan 4-5 Fav (J Hughes), drawn (2), 5 ran.

.....X | **Ladbrokes Scottish**

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE	Gloucester 2, Wealdstone 1 Dulwich	Basketball
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Ladbrokes Scottish

39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	Service Strollers P Selkirk P	Nottingham21	10	1	10	10	493	339	3
											(Postponed), Dalbeattie Star 1 Vale Of	Cornish P ..20	8	0	12	18	477	459	5
											Leithen 1, Edinburgh Univ O Whitehill	Yorkshire C20	10	0	10	9	424	495	4
												Cowpartry	21	8	1	12	12	617	614

Colts 2.	Richmond..	21	5	0	16	9	403	587	2
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PLUMPTON (SSR)

THE SCOUT: 1.55 The Flying Sofa 2.25 Belmont Park 2.55 Templier 3.25 Legal History 3.55 Tzar De L'Elle 4.30 It's Got Legs 5.05 Kereman

1.55 CORE SPREADS MAIDEN HURDLE

£4,094 (Class 4) 1m 7f 195yds (9 declared)	
1 P4	● AWESOME ROCK (34) R Ingram 10 11-4..... M Batchelor 84
2	CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI (F18) Adam West 6 11-4..... G Glassonbury 82
3	DUHR (F17) R Smith 5 11-4..... M Goldstein 80
4 6LF8	GETAWAY MISSION (30) J Williams 5 11-4..... T J O'Brien 83
5	LESANTI (F20) (T) E De Gille 5 11-4..... B Bass 82
6 3P35	MACH ONE (49) C Longsdon 5 11-4..... Paul O'Brien(3) 80
7 0-322L2	● THE FLYING SOFA (18) G L Moore 6 11-4..... Jamie Moore *99
8 86	COAL STOCK (22) Sam Thomas 4 10-13..... J Bowen 96
9 L	MRS JACK (14) Mrs L Jewell 5 10-11..... B J Powell 79

Forecast: 2-5 The Flying Sofa, 7 Mach One, 8 Coal Stock, Claudio Monteverdi, 25 Getaway Mission, 33 Duhr, Awesome Rock, 50 Lesanti, 66 Mrs Jack.
2018: Pull Together 6-11-4, Claran Gettings 2-1 (Stuart Edmunds), 11 ran.

2.25 CORE SPREADS HANDICAP CHASE

£4,224 (5) 2m 3f 164yds (4)	
1 18924L	● HOWLONGISAFOOT (14) (C&D) C Gordon 10 12-3..... T Cannon 84
2 LPL2L4	DON DES FOSSES (14) W Greatrex 6 12-3..... R Johnson 84
3 5/3PU2-3	● BELMONT PARK (41) J Bridgwater 8 11-11..... D Hiskett(5) 98
4 486331	MISTER MISTER (143) (F) D L Williams 8 11-0..... Mr C Todd(7) *98

BLINKERS: No. 1 VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 2
CHECK PIECES: No. 3
Forecast: 13-8 Mister Mister, 5-2 Don Des Fosses, Belmont Park, 6 Howlongisafoot, 2018: Finnegan's Garden 9-11-7, N Fehilly 2-1 (Miss T Davison), 6 ran.

2.55 CORE SPREADS NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE

£5,328 (4) 2m 214yds (5)	
1 L23F-4L	● TEMPLIER (41) (C) G L Moore 6 11-12..... Joshua Moore *99
2 5/5L6	DREYFUS (49) P Webber 8 11-12..... T J O'Brien 84
3 4UJ9L5	BABYTAGGLE (14) D L Williams 8 10-10..... L Treadwell 82
4 PU7844	SADMA (77) (F) Nick Lampard 10 10-7..... Miss A Bell(7) 79
5 LJ750L	ISTIMRAAR (642) D Skelton 8 10-0..... William Marshall(7) 98

TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 VISOR: No. 1, 5
Forecast: 2 Sadma, 5-2 Babytaggle, 10-3 Templier, 6 Dreyfus, 8 Istimraar.
2018: Lickenny Larry 7-10-4, R T Dunne 3-1 (T Gretton), 5 ran.

3.25 SUSSEX CHAMPION HURDLE (HANDICAP)

£31,280 (2) 1m 7f 195yds (13)	
1 4T1MP	● WELLS DE LUNE (229) (D) (T) Bowen 8 11-12..... Mr P Bryan(7) 84
2 11P	BRANDON CASTLE (40) (C&D) R King 7 11-6..... R Dingliess(5) 92
3 018643	EQUUS AMADEUS (8) Tom Lacey 6 11-2..... S Sheppard(3) 96
4 1113	LEAPWAG (182) (D) P Hobbs 11 11-0..... R Johnson 97
5 1308-	MICHAEL'S MOUNT (F16) (D) J Williams 6 10-13..... T J O'Brien 88
6 1055/2P	ALL YOURS (43) S Curran 8 10-13..... C Brace(7) 94
7 21-4513	BADDESLEY KNIGHT (67) (C&D) C Gordon 6 10-12..... T Cannon 92
8 L3227	MYSTIC SKY (115) (D) Mrs L Wadhwa 8 10-11..... Maxime Tissier(5) 86
9 132P	BEAT THE JUDGE (17) (D) G L Moore 4 10-9..... Joshua Moore 93
10 37L/L14	BELTOR (31) (D) Robert Stephens 8 10-8..... C Gettings 88
11 260426	MISTER UNIVERS (133) (D) C Skelton 10-10..... Bridget Andrews 88

12 7-106F FIESELE (41) (D) Oilly Murphy 7 10-5..... D England 98
13 342211 ● LEGAL HISTORY (112) (D) D Pipe 4 10-2..... T Scudamore *99
BLINKERS: Nos. 8, 13 VISOR: No. 10 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 11
Forecast: 4 Legal History, 11-2 Leapwag, 6 Brandon Castle, 7 Equus Amadeus, 8 Baddesley Knight, Beat The Judge, 10 Wells De Lune, 12 Michael's Mount, 14 Others.
2018: Vado Forte 5-10-4, R T Dunne 4-1 (Tom Lacey), 7 ran.

3.55 CORE SPREADS NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE

£5,328 (4) 3m 1f 152yds (5)	
1 15/5L54	● WINTER SOLDIER (17) R Milford-Slade 9 11-12..... C Deutsch 83
2 194222	● TAZAR DE L'ELLE (41) C Rowe 9 11-0..... A Glassonbury *99
3 5/3-1972	MAGIC RIVER (11) M Harris 8 11-4..... K Jones(3) 86
4 10/L11J	LOTTO DOWN (63) (C) D Bridgwater 8 10-11..... D Hiskett(5) 98
5 L2-44PP	BOBONYX (14) D Williams 9 10-0..... Mr C Todd(7) 82

VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: No. 3
CHECK PIECES: No. 4
Forecast: 5-4 Tzar De L'Elle, 6-4 Magic River, 5 Winter Soldier, 16 Jot'em Down, 25 Bobonyx.
2018: The Lion Dancer 6-11-11, N Fehilly 11-10 Fav (C Mann), 5 ran.

4.30 CORE SPREADS NOVICES' HURDLE

£6,238 (3) 2m 4f 114yds (4)	
1 312215	● FRANKY DU BERLAIS (179) (T) P Bowen 6 11-10..... J Bowen 92
2 2PL362	HE'S A GOER (11) Tom Lacey 5 11-6..... R Johnson 94
3 365251	● IT'S GOT LEGS (14) (C&D) G L Moore 6 11-6..... Jamie Moore *99
4 31009	PRABENI (29) (F) C Mann 4 11-4..... J McGrath 98

BLINKERS: No. 2 VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 4
CHECK PIECES: No. 4
Forecast: 15-8 Prabeni, 5-2 He's A Goer, 3 Franky Du Berlais, 4 It's Got Legs.
2018: Traffic Fluide 8-11-0, Joshua Moore 4-7 Fav (G L Moore), 6 ran.

5.05 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE

£3,834 (5) 2m 4f 114yds (10)	
1 7-0UT71	● AGE OF WISDOM (14) (C&D) G L Moore 6 11-13..... N F Houlihan(8) 93
2 L44-134	DON'T TELL GEORGE (36) C Gordon 6 11-12..... M Kendrick 94
3 L455-1	● KEREMAN (22) D Skelton 5 11-7..... William Marshall(10) *99
4 743L8	LITTLE RICH (22) D Bridgwater 4 11-2..... C McKinnies(7) 60
5 1057L5	SIXTIES IDOL (F65) (C&D) Miss S West 6 11-2..... R Dingle 92
6 422P4	BOUGIETOPIECES (33) (D) K Burke 9 10-12..... Jason Dixon(3) 90
7 6PLP6	CINTEX (22) N Mulholland 7 10-10..... H Reed(3) 83
8 844780	BUCKEYE SHAN (144) (T) P Bowen 9 10-2..... R Patrick 98
9 L1-0568	MORNING SEQUEL (55) N Mulholland 6 10-0..... P K Donovan(6) 83
10 8-0PLPL	POMME DE NUIT (66) C Longsdon 6 10-0..... C Brace(3) 81

BLINKERS: Nos. 5, 6
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 6, 7, 9
CHECK PIECES: Nos. 1, 4, 7, 9
Forecast: 7-4 Kereman, 2 Age Of Wisdom, 8 Bougietopieces, Don't Tell George, 12 Sixties Idol, 16 Little Rich, CinTEX, 25 Buckeye Shan, 33 Others.
2018: Ramore Hill 7-12-0, Harry Reed 5-2 Fav (C Gordon), 7 ran.

CARLISLE: Good-good to firm in places

1.40-LADY SAMBACK (0 Irving, 11-2) 1: Court In Matera (12-2) 3: St George's Oval (10-1) 3. 12 ran. (M Barnes): 7-2 Jfayv Green Zone, 7-2 Jfayv Lady Kyria). Non-runner: Dream On Dreamer.
2.15-WISHFULL DREAMING (J England, evens 2nd fav) 1: Peppay Le Pugh (5-6 fav) 2: Friary Gold (11-1) 3. 3 ran. (Sam England).
2.50-WHOSHOTHESHERIFF (S Quinlan, 5-1) 1: Staged Engagement (14-1) 2: Pagero (3-1) 3. 7 ran. (P Kirby).
3.25-INVESTING (Rosh Chapman, 4-1) 1: Graystown (2-1 2nd fav) 2: Opeechee (25-1) 3. 4 ran. (Miss L Harrison; 10-11 fav School Lane).
4.00-CAIRNSHILL (S Quinlan, 5-4 fav) 1: Tawseef (11-2) 2: Presence Felt (5-1) 3. 4 ran. (Kenly Johnson).
4.35-ROLL OF THUNDER (C O'Farrell, 14-1) 1: Petite Ganache (6-5 fav) 2: Aquarian (11-2 2nd fav) 3. 8 ran. (J Walton).
5.10-CONNECTIVE (J Collier, 5-2) 1: Tonigcinn (7-4 2nd fav) 2: Dartmoor (5-4 fav) 3. 3 ran. (M Hammond). Non-runner: Mannochmore.
Placepot: £404.60
(Race 1) 10, 7, 8; (2) 2; (3) 1, 5; (4) 4; (5) 3; (6) 8, 2, 3;
Quadpot: £40.80

HAYDOCK: Good
1.30-KENTFORD HEIRESS (K Jones, 25-1)

RESULTS

1. Misty Bloom (5-1) 2nd fav; 2: Miss Mash (16-1) 3. 14 ran. (J W Mullins; 5-11 fav) Aimee De Sivala).
2.05-CUBSWIN (R Johnston, 11-1) 1: Arthington (10-1) 2: Pervine Bleu (12-1) 3: Casa Tall (11-2) 4. 16 ran. (N King; 4-1 fav Cause Tjoujers).
2.40-MARLERMADE (W Hutchinson, 11-2) 1: Quarenta (9-2) 2nd fav; 2: Sumkindofking (7-1) 3. 8 ran. (A King; 7-2 fav The Paddy Pie).
3.15-BJANGO DANCER (Jonjo O'Neill, 4-1) 1: j 2nd fav; 2: Skidooosh (6-1) 2: No Hiding Place (10-1) 3. 10 ran. (Jonjo O'Neill; 5-1 fav Trister). Non-runner: Sliding Doors.
3.50-THE BAY BIRCH (S Sheppard, 7-1) 1: Troubled Soul (11-2) 2: Still Believing (16-1) 3. 7 ran. (M Sheppard; 10-3 fav Dauphine Eerie).
4.20-COPPER WEST (P Brennan, 5-1) 1: Princeton Royale (5-1) 2: Jarlath (14-1) 3. 8 ran. (T R George; 10-3 fav Enola Gay).
4.55-MINELLA DADDY (J Bowen, 9-2) 1: Lough Berg Farmer (11-4 2nd fav) 2: Mustmetelady (7-4 fav) 3. 5 ran. (P Bowen). Non-runners: Zerachiel, Ziga Boy.
Jackpot: Not won, pool of £9,408.61 carried over.
Placepot: £1,306.10
(Race 1) 7, 11, 8; (2) 3, 9, 7, 8; (3) 8, 5, 1; (4) 6, 4, 7; (5) 1, 7; (6) 8, 1; 7.
Quadpot: £53.50

FFOS LAS (Jackpot) (SSR)

THE SCOUT: 2.15 Lostnfound 2.45 CAPONE (nap) 3.15 Bailbour 3.45 Champagne Champ 4.20 Regal Flow 4.55 Volcano

2.15 COUNTY MARQUEES MARES' HCAP HURDLE

£4,094 (Class 4) 2m 5f 192yds (9 declared)	
101 6321L5	● FIELD EXHIBITION (20) Grace Harris 9 11-12..... M Bastyan(5) 85
102 53723	LADY CYLLA (40) Tom Lacey 4 11-7..... L Aspell 91
103 0-PP4P3	BIG PENNY (18) Jonjo O'Neill 7 11-5..... R McLernon 97
104 12P25U	● LOSTNFOUND (9) J Snowden 6 11-8..... James Davies *99
105 12-134	ORIENTAL CROSS (47) J Vaughan 6 11-3..... Mr C Price(7) 90
106 44P17-1	BEJA BOUGG (715) J Farrelly 8 11-11..... N Schofield 86
107 640P55	GET AN OSCAR (95) P Bowen 5 10-13..... S Bowen 86
108 41U524	STEPHANIE SUNSHINE (15) Mrs S Leech 6 10-11..... P Brennan 96
109 366655	MAC BELLA (26) E Williams 7 10-11..... A Wedge 93

BLINKERS: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 8
Forecast: 5-2 Lady Cylla, 3 Big Penny, 6 Oriental Cross, 8 Lostnfound, 10 Field Exhibition, Get An Oscar, 12 Mac Bella, 14 Deja Bougg, Stephanie Sunshine.
2018: No corresponding race.

2.45 GEOFF WILLIAMS BIRTHDAY NOVS' HURDLE

£4,094 (4) 1m 7f 182yds (8)	
201 4121	● CAPONE (33) (D,F) C Mann 4 11-9..... P Brennan *99
202 2-P52S	CERVARO MUI (31) (D) O Shervold 5 11-8..... Doubtfull 84
203 53	JEMBUB DRUMMER (22) T Vaughan 5 11-2..... D Noonan 80
204 PF24L7	OUT THE GLEN (14) Mrs D Haner 6 11-2..... T Bellamy 71
205 0P-1	TIGER'S LEGACY (54) M Scudamore 5 11-2..... R McLernon 78
206 44P24	BEECHER (15) Katy Price 4 10-11..... B Poste 64
207 7	COURT DANCER (31) E Williams 4 10-11..... A Wedge 79
208 32L	STATUARIO (17) P Bowen 4 10-11..... S Bowen 85

TONGUE STRAP: No. 8
Forecast: 4-6 Capone, 2 Statuario, 10 Court Dancer, 14 Jembub Drummer, 50 Out The Glen, Tiger's Legacy, 66 Beecher.
2018: Luckoftheadrow 5-11-3, Sam Twiston-Davies 9-4 (N Twiston-Davies), 5 ran.

3.15 CONGRATULATIONS 'TOBEFAIR' HCAP CHASE

£4,614 (4) 2m 3f 83yds (9)	
301 0-303P4	● BALBOURD (25) (F) Emma Lavelle 1-12..... L Aspell *99
302 4U9P54	FARM THE ROCKS (15) Katy Price 8 11-12..... B Poste 89
303 5476-CL	OLLIE VAAR (13) R P Price 7 11-12..... L Heard 82
304 4LL-1L	JEU DE MOTS (304) (C) Mrs J Williams 6 11-8..... Lizzie Kelly(3) 84
305 2L5134	ALF 'N' DOR (14) (C&D) P Bowen 8 11-7..... S Bowen 92
306 2P23L-P	AN LAOCH (329) T Vaughan 7 11-5..... Mr C Price(7) 85
307 5U4538	DARK INVADER (8) (C) E Williams 7 11-5..... C Ring(3) 89
308 P01L03	FACT FLOW (22) D Burchell 10 11-2..... Robert Dunne 90
309 215545	JONAGOLD (24) E Williams 8 10-11..... A Wedge 91

BLINKERS: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 5, 6, 9
Forecast: 7-2 Balbourd, 5 Fact Flow, Alf 'N' Dor, 6 Farm The Rock, 7 Jonagold, Jeu De Mots, 10 An Laoch, 12 Ollie Vaar, Dark Invader.
2018: Maguire's Glen 10-11-2, Mikey Hamill(5) 9-4 (Grace Harris), 5 ran.

3.45 TIM VAUGHAN RACING HANDICAP HURDLE

£6,238 (3) 2m 4f (8)	
401 13843L	● SATOSHI (59) J Farrelly 5 11-12..... L Aspell 88
402 12-6482	● CHAMPAGNE CHAMP (7) B Millman 7 11-6..... Robert Dunne *99
403 L2945L	SPORTING BOY (17) (D) J Farrelly 11-11..... N Schofield 95
404 24UJF-4	ZEN MASTER (F14) C Mann 7 10-10..... P Brennan 98
405 3F5-650	KIGHT DESTROYER (59) Jonjo O'Neill 5 10-10..... R McLernon 91
406 UJF45	OXWICH BAY (33) (C&D) E Williams 7 10-9..... A Wedge 97
407 32L10L	JUDGE EARLE (24) (D) P Bowen 7 10-8..... S Bowen 86
408 75545P	NEVER EQUALLED (15) (C&D) B J Llewellyn 10 10-7..... R Williams(3) 92

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 7, 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3
Forecast: 5-2 Champagne Champ, 4 Satoshi, Zen Master, 13-2 Oxwich Bay, 7 Never Equalled, 10 Sporting Boy, 14 Knight Destroyer, 16 Judge Earle.
2018: Never Equalled 9-11-8, Sean Houlihan(5) 15-8 Fav (B J Llewellyn), 5 ran.

4.20 CANTER CARPET NATIONAL HCAP CHASE

£15,890 (3) 3m 3f 208yds (8)	
501 148L3P	● DELL' ARCA (36) D Pipe 10 11-12..... D Noonan 88
502 107174-6	KINGSWELL THEATRE (39) M Scudamore 10 11-11..... R McLernon 94
503 5-53141	SAMUEL JACKSON (41) (D) R Milford-Slade 7 11-10..... J Best 90
504 2PLP49	GET ON THE YAGER (36) D Skelton 9 11-6..... C Shoemark 90
505 ULL3P3	REGAL FLOW (21) (D) R Buckler 12 11-5..... H Cobden *99
506 1U-3U2F	POBBLES BAY (33) (C) E Williams 9 11-4..... A Wedge 90
507 07L2P2	HENLLAN HARRI (20) (C) P Bowen 11 11-3..... S Bowen 87
508 PL-5P56	ON THE ROAD (14) E Williams 9 10-5..... C Ring(3) 87
509 4L31P7	DE BENE ESCE (359) (C) A Wintle 9 10-0..... B Poste 82

BLINKERS: No. 1, 7
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 7, 9
CHECK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3
Forecast: 11-4 Get On The Yager, 7-2 Samuel Jackson, 4 Regal Flow, 6 Pobbles Bay, 10 Dell' Arca, Kingswell Theatre, 12 Henllan Harri, 20 On The Road, 33 De Bene Esce.
2018: Henri PARRY Morgan 10-11-7, Sean Bowen 6-1 (P Bowen), 12 ran.

4.55 WALTERS UK MAIDEN HURDLE

£3,119 (5) 2m 5f 192yds (9)	
601 3-14	● SUNDAY SESSION (24) N Scudamore 5 11-2..... R McLernon 84
602 10L	TAAFFES CASTLE (14) Christian Williams 6 11-2..... C Ring(3) 84
603	VIVRE POUR VIVRE (F139) Christian Williams 6 11-2..... P Brennan *99
604 325252	● VOLCANO (21) N Twiston-Davies 5 11-2..... J Nallier(7) *99
605 3	IONA LAD (21) T Vaughan 4 10-10..... D Noonan 75
606 F1-46FU	ESCORT NAMOX (32) W Greatrex 6 10-9..... S Bowen 97
607 6	GILWEN GRACELYN (54) E Williams 5 10-9..... A Wedge 77
608 00	MY FOXLY LADY (12) J Needham 7 10-9..... Robert Dunne 78
609 44176	WIN MY WINGS (63) Christian Williams 6 10-9..... N Schofield 79

TONGUE STRAP: No. 8
Forecast: 4-5 Volcano, 5 Vivre Pour Vivre, 12-Escort namox, 8 Sunday Session, 16 Iona Lad, 25 Win My Wings, Taffes Castle, 33 My Foxly Lady, Gilwen Gracelyn.
2018: No corresponding race.

KEMPTON: Standard to slow
1.25-ELECTRIC LADYLAND (L Morris, 11-8 2nd fav) 1: Littleton Hall (16-1) 2: Audio (15-2) 3. 5 ran. (Archie Watson; evens fav Dark Of Night). Non-runner: Rathagan.
2.00-COWBOY SOLDIER (L Morris, 20-1) 1: Puds (11-2) 2nd fav; 2: Cowfay (7-2 co fav) 3. 9 ran. (R Cowell; 1-2 cofav Royal Birch, 20-2 cofav Blue De Vego).
2.35-EL GUMRYAH (A Atzeni, 20-1) 1: Rufus Power (9-2) 2: Rainbow West (31-2nd fav) 3. 6 ran. (S Crisford; 5-6 fav Nausha). Non-runner: Kodiac Lass.
3.30-NAME THE WIND (P J McDonald, 2-1 2nd fav) 1: Senza Limiti (6-5 fav) 2: Riviera Nights (12-1) 3. 7 ran. (J Tate).
3.45-AGROTERA (G Moss, 7-2) 1: j fav) 1: Preening (10-1) 2: Rawdas (9-2) 3. 14 ran. (Ed Walker; 7-2 fav Tiger Eye).
4.15-EMBOUR (M Dwyer, 11-2) 1: Vibrant Chords (14-1) 2: Eschequer (5-1) 3. 9 ran. (R Hamon; 5-2 fav Indian Tygress). Non-runner: Lahore.
4.50-EDEN ROSE (David Gawn, 3-1 2nd fav) 1: Sharja Silk (9-4 fav) 2: Fibonacchi (33-1) 3. 11 ran. (M Channon).
Placepot: £690.80
(Race 1) 5, 3; (2) 6, 8, 7; (3) 7, 6; (4) 4, 5; (5) 2, 8, 10; (6) 8, 2, 6;
Quadpot: £124.60

MUSSELBURGH: Good-good to firm in places
1.50-THREE SAINTS BAY (D Tudhope, 6-1)

SEIST

MARKET RASEN (RTV)

THE SCOUT: 2.00 MON PORT (nb) 2.30 Present Ranger 3.00 SALTO CHISCO 3.30 Chozen 4.05 Midnight Chilli 4.40 Zamparelli 5.10 Montego Grey

2.00 RASE EQUINE NOVICES' HURDLE

£4,549 (Class 4) 2m 148yds (7 declared)	
1 1223L1	● MON PORT (32) (C&D) Oilly Murphy 7 11-12..... F Gregory(5) *99
2 115	ORMESHER (170) (D) D McCain 4 11-7..... Miss A McCain(5) 88
3 3510	AL KHERB (21) J Quinlan 4 11-11..... C R King 90
4 11-6L15	PORT LAIRGE (18) M Chapman 9 11-0..... G Carson(7) 75
5 19P-	STEEL HELMET (776) Harriet Bethell 5 11-10..... Doubtfull 81
6 589	DOCTOR JAZZ (26) D McCain 4 10-9..... W T Kennedy 64
7 0	OSKEMEN (11) Oilly Murphy 4 10-9..... J Sherwood(3) 92

Forecast: 7-4 Mon Port, 15-8 Ormesher, 9-4 Al Kherb, 20 Doctor Jazz, Oskemen, 50 Port Lairge.
2018: No corresponding meeting.

2.30 FERRY ALES BREWERY MAIDEN HURDLE

£3,249 (5) 2m 4f 139yds (7)	
1 9	● ARTICLE OF WAR (48) L Allan 6 11-2..... G Carson(7) 76
2 86	BARTHOLEMEW J (34) Mrs L Pearce 5 11-2..... J Quinlan 94
3 38-628	COURT OUT (298) J Snowden 6 11-2..... G Sheehan 92
4 88	DORADO DOLLAR (107) B Case 5 11-2..... K Woods 77</

12COMMENT

Jim Holden



Have your say at: express.co.uk/jimholden. Or you can email Jim at jim.holden@reachplc.com



COMEBACK: Woods' Masters win

Ali eclipses Tiger return

THE victory of Tiger Woods at The Masters last weekend was a bewitching spectacle, but the golfing brigade surely went overboard with their reaction in calling it the greatest comeback in the history of sport.

Sorry, not for me.

What about the return of Muhammad Ali (right) from his long exile after refusing to fight in the Vietnam War and reclaiming the world boxing heavyweight crown?

What about, as well, Sir Matt Busby and Sir Bobby Charlton winning the 1968 European Cup some 10 years after the tragedy of the Munich air crash?

I think they are more significant and more compelling, don't you?

Ignorance is lamentable

GLENN HODDLE and Gary Lineker are two favourite sons of Tottenham Hotspur and you could forgive them showing a little partisan delight as TV pundits when the club progressed to the semi-finals of the Champions League last week.

Less easy to understand was their ignorance of the rich history of Spurs as both men repeatedly told the television audience that 'their' club had never before reached this stage of Europe's prestige competition.

How wrong can you be?

The first team to reach the European Cup semi-finals were the greatest Spurs of all, the side of Danny Blanchflower, Dave Mackay, Jimmy Greaves (above), Cliff Jones and John White.

In the spring of 1962 the Glory Boys lost narrowly to eventual champions Benfica over two legs, succumbing to the brilliance of a young Eusebio.



Players must keep quiet as Archer could be hero

WHAT possessed them, the three W's of English cricket, to make such a foolish mistake?

When David Willey, Mark Wood and Chris Woakes started moaning about the possibility of rising superstar Jofra Archer's call-up to England's team for the Cricket World Cup, they broke one of the basic rules of sport.

It is that players do not talk in public about team selection – and they do not try to influence who does and does not get picked for England.

The dangers are profound. That way is chaos and failure.

Willey, Wood and Woakes are all good men and good cricketers, but it has been a sorry spectacle to see them each in turn question the wisdom of Archer joining the England team now that he is eligible for selection.

What did they think they were doing?

"It's a group of players that have been together for three or four years now that have got us to No1 in the world," said Willey last month. "Whether someone should just walk in at the drop of a hat because they're available, whether that's the right thing I don't know."

Wood's comments came a few days ago, just ahead of an England selection meeting, and he said: "It's the old Kevin Keegan thing (at Newcastle), bringing in Tino Asprilla because you want to keep the team at the top."

"You still want to keep moving forward but does that change the dynamic? Does it mix it up? All of a sudden you can lose the momentum and drop down."

"There is no doubt that Jofra is a world-class player. He would obviously be a great asset, but would that affect the dynamic of the team?"

"Would I want to see someone like Liam Plunkett, who has been our best bowlers for three years, left out? No."

"Would I want to see myself left out? Obviously not."

"Would I want to see David Willey, who I am close friends with and who gives you a left-arm option left out? No."

"Would I want to see Chris Woakes, who I am really good friends with and has taken loads of wickets, left out? No." Then it was



ELIGIBLE & TALENTED: Jofra Archer's selection has been slammed by, below from left, David Willey, Mark Wood and Chris Woakes



the turn of Woakes to echo the negativity.

"If Archer was to come in and someone was to miss out it would be extremely unfortunate," said the all-rounder. "It probably wouldn't be fair, morally, but at the same time it's the nature of international sport."

Again, what did these three W's think they were doing? Selection

for the England cricket team must be on merit, not based on friendship groups among the players. It should never become a closed shop.

There is nothing "moral" about picking a side to win the World Cup – it's about talent and form.

There is nothing but dismay in witnessing players openly wonder if a newcomer might disrupt the

dynamic and spirit of the side. England's intelligent captain, Eoin Morgan, must be furious. His players have let him down badly.

The weakness of Morgan's formidable England one-day team is in the fast-bowling department, particularly in the crucial final overs of an innings, what are called the 'death' overs.

ARCHER may be the player to solve that problem. He has shown over the past two years in the IPL and Big Bash that he is a superstar in the making, revelling in the tension and pressure moments of top-level sport.

He has proper pace combined with some fearsomely accurate yorkers.

The 24-year-old was born and raised in Barbados, home of the original three W's – the fabulous 1950s West Indies batting trio of Worrell, Weekes and Walcott.

Archer has a British father and a British passport, but had to spend time qualifying to be eligible for England because he had represented West Indies at Under 19 level in a couple of matches.

Now he is available – and the England selectors have picked Archer for matches against Ireland and Pakistan with a view to putting him in the final 15-man squad for the World Cup.

Of course they have.

The kid is a dynamite cricketer who plays with passion and with a smile on his face.

Those who know him say he is a good character in the dressing room as well.

He could be the difference between glory or failure at the World Cup, and what do the modern three W's think about that?

Let's hope their moaning has not been too destructive.

Team spirit built up over time is worth something, but it is more easily fractured by loose talk and selfish attitudes than by the introduction of a world-class 90mph fast bowler.

Gunn-ing for easy targets!

CURIOUS, isn't it, how the good run of form enjoyed by Manchester United this season was all about the impact of interim manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (right), and that a downturn in results reveals the need for a

massive summer clear-out of players?

It only fuels the perception that this is a football club without a concrete vision for the future and still far behind its domestic and continental rivals.

